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ISSUE 641

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KELSEY media

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This **Saltist boat rod range** not only covers all down and uptide techniques but the real stand out design is the 11' Match, serving across the typical mix of tidal conditions.

The range starts with two versatile 7'6" choices covering 15-25lb and 25-40lb classes. These feature a 1+1 assembly: a long top plus handle.

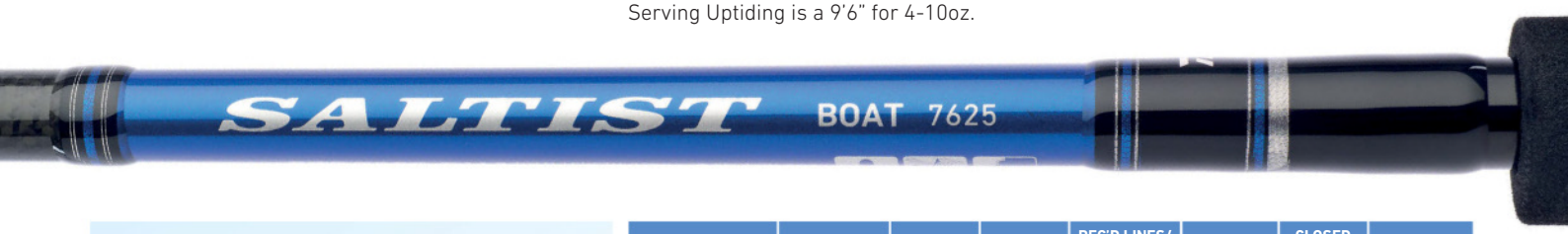
Longer options of 8'6", offering the same line class range, assemble as two equal sections, hence their shorter packed length of 134cm.

Serving Uptiding is a 9'6" for 4-10oz.

The 'tippy' action helps you propel rigs away from the boat with ease but still deliver pronounced drop backs when fish dislodge the lead.

However, it is the 11' Match edition which brings a different thinking to catching on a busy boat or across the changing tide.

The longer design gives you reach away from the congestion of other fishing lines and the standout feature of three push in fibreglass tips ensures you are able to keep in touch with bites across a broad mix of set ups and tidal speeds.



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STM1130-BU	MATCH	11'0"	484g	12-30lbs	2+3 QT's	172cm	£329.99

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WELCOME

ISSUE 641 NOVEMBER 2024

In June I was invited to the Florida Keys to sample the fishing in the sportfishing capital of the world. I loved it and the fishing was spectacular. You can read about one of my 'backcountry' fishing trips in the Everglades National Park on page 12. Now Sea Angler has been there, it's your chance to win the fishing holiday of a lifetime: we are offering one lucky reader the chance to win a four-night trip for two people to the Florida Keys, including two chartered fishing trips, worth nearly £5000! Head to page 18 for details and how to be in with a chance of winning this incredible prize.

WIN A TRIP TO FLORIDA! SEE PAGE 18

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Roger Munro looks into the lifecycle and habits of the conger eels before providing his top tips to help you catch a big eel from the shore. Read his feature on page 20. Shore specimen hunter Lasse Bøe explains how to use mussels as bait for a variety of species, starting on page six, while Tim Macpherson gets technical with a crash course in the art (or maybe it's a science) of slow pitch jigging, starting on page 50. This month we also start two new series: Mike Thrussell kicks off his new watercraft series with wind and why understanding it is essential to successful fishing; we aslo begin a series of extracts from Phill Williams' book, You Should Have Been Here Yesterday. This month Phill looks at the fascinating story behind the development of GPS.

FISHING THERAPY

Last month I was asked by my father-in-law if I was taking my boat out fishing at all, and whether I would mind taking my brother-in-law out for a day on the water. He's a keen angler but has his struggles with his mental health and doesn't get out fishing very often.

"Of course, I'd be very happy to," I replied and a week or so later a weather window opened up one Sunday afternoon and the three of us made our way out to sea off the north Kent coast.

Jigging lures in shallow water using very light tackle we had great fun for a few hours catching bass and mackerel, and simply enjoying being out on the water watching the rain clouds come and go in the distance. With a few fish in the coolbag we headed for home and all agreed we'd try and do it again sometime when the conditions were right.

Some days later my wife asked me to remember to ask them out again if I was going fishing anytime soon. It turned out she had been asked to give me a nudge because our trip out that Sunday had done wonders for my brother-in-law's mental health and he was now focused and enthusiastic about getting more into bass fishing.

Why am I telling you this? As anglers we all know how good fishing is for our health and wellbeing. But for someone struggling with the challenges of life, a day's fishing could do more for them than you realise. If you know anyone affected by mental health issues please consider taking them out fishing for the day. Never underestimate fishing's power to soothe the soul. If you can share it with someone in need, even better.

David

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Cover picture by Ben Stockley

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Words and Photography by LASSE BØE

BRILLIANT BIVALVES

Lasse Bøe provides a masterclass in finding, preparing, and using one of his favourite fish-catching baits: the humble mussel

Many anglers are unsure about using mussels as bait but I can't fault them. They can be challenging to harvest in big enough numbers to use efficiently through a session and shelling them can be a pain in the backside. Don't get me started on how the slippery, gooey, stuff can be put on a hook! Hopefully, you will pick up a few tricks about how to use this brilliant bait, because that's what they are at catching fish: brilliant!

MUSSEL DISCOVERY

I find great pleasure in gathering my own bait. I love fishing for mackerel to target congers, ling and cod, I cherish walking the shoreline looking for lugworm castings and find cast netting for sprats both entertaining and challenging. Mussel foraging is another element and plays a big role in my specimen angling. As a bait, mussels are second to none and will catch a wide variety of species from hard fighting cod to picky lemon sole.

Sometimes mussels can be picked straight from the beach, laying amongst lugworm castings and pieces of kelp. Clean beaches seem to be pick up lesser numbers of mussels, while the mixed grounded beaches are what you are looking for. I rarely find any big numbers of mussels here, but I always pick some when I dig for worms. However, bear in mind, restraint is as always a crucial aspect of both fishing and foraging and is just as important when taking a few mussels from a small colony.

Over the last couple of years I have learned a lot about digging for ragworms on Norwegian beaches. Here in Viking-land I have never been able to identify the beaches where the ragworms thrive, until the worm whisperer of Skarnsundet – Mr Paul Leepy Lee – made me aware of the importance of mussel beds close by. And as soon I discovered the mussel-holding beaches, I started discovering more ragworm locations as well.

However, floating docks are the true gold mine when you want bigger numbers of mussels. Through a year I use many pounds of mussels as bait and I pick them from various floating docks. This is also the first place I look for them when I arrive at a new area I have never fished before, as they will always hold mussels. It just depends on the size of the mussels. I usually find some smaller ragworms between the mussels which makes a great addition to making bait combos and cocktails.

New floating docks and pontoons are quickly discarded, though, as the mussels needs some time to grow to be harvested as bait. A dream scenario is to find an old floating dock which no one has paid attention to for the last 15 years. These mussels will be enormous! Many of the newer floating docks are also painted with anti-fouling to prevent mussels and barnacles to grow. These docks are usually ▶

Pay attention to the white muscles, which holds the two half-shells together

Using mussels on a flattie rig is like ringing the kitchen bell for dinner!

located where rich people have their yachts and sail boats.

Harvesting mussels from floating docks should meet with no problems from the boat owners. In fact, they are likely to thank you for doing it! Over time, the weight of big mussels is a tremendous challenge for the floating docks, and many of them are scraped to prevent them from sinking. I have a deal with the owner of my local floating dock who leaves the removal of the mussels to me. As a result I have easy access to big mussels without the fear of finding my favourite floating dock scraped and all the mussels gone.

SHELLING

Given the right conditions, a bucket of mussels are collected in a matter of minutes. I tend to pick the biggest mussels I can find: it takes less effort to shell them to expose the precious mussel meat. Bigger mussels also fit better in your hand than the smaller ones and you need fewer mussels to make a bait, making it easier and less likely you will injure yourself.

The knife I use is a custom designed fruit knife. I have sharpened the backside with a Dremel tool and used a pair of pliers to nip off the point of the knife and rounded it off. Stabbing yourself in the hand while shelling mussels is a part of the job, so a blunt point on your knife makes it a little less dangerous!

This mussel tool is brilliant for the job. The thin blade is easily pushed between the two shells on the convex side of the mussel. A slow movement with the blade cuts off the muscle of the mussel (no pun intended), and the shell can be pried open.

Lift the blade under the muscle on each side and cut it free from the shells. The outer side of the blade is used to scrape out the

"As a bait, mussels are second to none and will catch a wide variety of species from hard fighting cod to picky sole and dabs"

Preparing mussels before you go fishing saves you time

The business end of the wolfish is perfectly adapted to crush mussels!

meat with cutting. Imagine you are carving out the flesh from an avocado or a kiwi and you are there. Place the mussel meat between pieces of kitchen paper and let it dry out for an hour or so to firm them up. A sprinkle of salt over the mussel will draw even more moisture out. I usually skip this process as I normally use them straight away. Zip lock bags are great for storing mussels and they are excellent for the freezer. This is why extracting moisture from is important.

When I am preparing mussels at home for a session later the same day, I put them in a small container with a sealed lid and place kitchen paper both under and over them. It is important to keep the mussel meat out of the sun, as the heat will melt them into a sticky, useless, mess.

MAKING UP A BAIT

Using mussels as bait opens a world of opportunities and applications; your imagination sets the standard. It can be fished as a single bait, combined with other baits as combo or used as a "coat" to attract smaller species to your bait. It is the king of ballan wrasse baits and has the x-factor that can pick out the fiddliest species when nothing else works.

When preparing a bait for flatfish, I like to use my trusty bait needle or better, a two-pronged device that will stop the mussel from spinning when you run your bait elastic around it. One big mussel (or, in fact, two halves) makes a decent bait that produces a lot of scent and is a colourful eye-catcher at the bottom with its changing colours between orange and black. Remember, some of the mussel will disappear as you wind your bait elastic through it, so it is better to start off with more mussel than you think you need. Mussel baits that are heavily elasticated tend to lose their efficiency rapidly, as the bait elastic will cut through the mussel meat and release too much scent. Expect to change bait often. I prefer medium bait elastic as it cuts through less than the thinner stuff. Heavy bait elastic will cut even less, but is useless to construct fine, delicate baits like flatfish mussel baits.

A fruit knife with cut-off point and sharpened on both sides is a brilliant mussel tool

For bigger mussel baits, like fishing for specimen plaice or, here in Norway, wolfish, a mussel sausage works better. A piece of 1-inch PVC tubular elastic bandage, like Elastoplast, makes perfect big fish baits. Just stuff the mussels inside the pipe and pull it through the mesh, make a granny knot on each side of the mesh and you are ready to rock. The mesh takes some of the beating from the bait elastic and you need far fewer whippings with the elastic. Here, I use the heavier stuff and normally just use the elastic to attach it to the hook rather than whipping the entire bait.

Mussels in conjunction with other baits is also worth mentioning, especially a combo of sandeel and mussel which is a deadly killer for plaice!

WHAT SPECIES TO EXPECT

Flatfish like plaice, sole, flounder and dabs are amongst the prime species to target with mussel baited hooks. In some areas of my home fishing grounds in Norway I can't use them due to too much haddock activity! In the wintertime I find mussels to be an outstanding bait for cod. When they are feeding on crab and other crustaceans over rough ground mussels will often outfish fish and even worm baits. Wolfish have a face that only a mother could love for a reason: its teeth and jaw muscles are the perfect tools to crush mussels with. The same goes for ballan wrasse, which are adapted to feeding on molluscs with shells like mussels and limpets.

The list of species I would target with mussel baits is long and it is a classic bottom feeder bait. As a rule, all the wrasse species and all the flatfish species are all ticked off as obvious targets, while predators like turbot and sharks and rays prefer fish baits over anything else. That being said, on certain days, the mussel has proven its worth as an ace up my sleeve for getting the thornback rays in feeding mode.

RIGGING OPTIONS

As with any other bait, mussels give plenty of options on how to bait up and how to fish. Rigging up with dongle rigs seems to be a prominent tactic over recent years and, as always, choose your hook type to match what you are targeting. A three-inch dongle under a 2/0 circle hook is a perfect choice for most species and has become my go-to setup when targeting cod and haddock. The elastic tubular bandage 'sausage' with the two granny knots is the perfect way to present a bigger mussel bait on a dongle: the knot on top works as a natural anchor point for the hook. Just nick the hook under the knot and it will stay on until you must cut it off.

When fishing for flatfish like plaice and flounders, I prefer the classic Aberdeen-styled hook with a mussel 'worm' threaded on with a baiting needle. Soles on the other hand are easier targeted with a short-shanked Chinu-pattern, as their mouths are quite small. Here I prefer using less bait elastic as it allows the fish to suck the bait more easily than chewing on a heavy elasticated bait. Due to the small mouth of a sole, I suggest downscaling the use of bait elastic to maintain the softness of the bait.

If you haven't tried out mussels as bait, I really suggest you do. I bet you will be surprised by the efficiency of the natural scent, the beautiful colours as attractors for inquisitive species and another aspect to shore angling – keeping the costs down while at the same time using bait you can rely on 100 per cent. ■

The hard fighting ballan wrasse loves mussels

My favourite bait for lemon sole is... you guessed it: mussels!

A granny knot on the mesh sausage makes a perfect hook hold when using a dongle rig

THE WORLD'S WARMEST BASELAYER®

Owning a quality baselayer is essential for fishing during the coldest months of the year, and Japanese brand Zerofit has been keeping anglers all over the world warmer than ever since 2005 with their Heatrub Ultimate Collection, incorporating the Ultimate Baselayer, Leggings and Socks. And fresh for 2024, the brand has unveiled the new Heatrub Ultimate Waterproof Convertible Mittens, made from the same material as the other three products in the Ultimate Collection. The Baselayer is the most technically advanced on the market and a complete game-changer for anglers during the winter. Here's why.

WHAT MAKES IT SO GOOD?

1. It's five times warmer than a standard baselayer

That is quite a claim, but it's a fact. Tested at the iconic Boken Institute in Osaka, the Heatrub Ultimate baselayer recorded a Heat Retention Rating of 0.78; a standard product would have a rating of between 0.1 to 0.14, while a jumper would typically have a rating of 0.3. The Ultimate performs best in a temperature range of -10° Celsius thru 10° Celsius making it an essential piece of kit this cold season.

2. Instant warmth and all-day comfort

A standard baselayer traps body heat between your skin and the material, so it takes a little time before you feel the benefits. With Zerofit, five separate fabrics, along with a patented knitting process, create instant warmth as soon as you pull it on. While other brands rely on compression for heat, our unique fabric mix means you don't need the tightness in order for it to work, making it super comfortable and something you can wear all day.

3. Fewer layers, greater warmth and freedom to move

The Ultimate is the ideal product for anglers who dislike traditional tight baselayers. Over the years, you may well have 'layered up' in order to combat the effects of cold weather – however, bulky layers can lead to restriction of movement which may affect your enjoyment of a day's fishing. This is where we are changing the game for anglers. The Heatrub Ultimate is so good at keeping you warm, you won't need these multiple additional layers.

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Words and photography
BY DAVID MITCHELL

DAVID AND GOLIATH

Sea Angler editor's first experience of fishing in Florida was a hard-earned lesson in how perseverance pays off, and why you should never give up!

It was only my second morning and I was still getting acclimatised to the clinging heat and humidity of July in the Florida Keys. It was 6am and the sun was still yet to rise, but it was busy in the marina outside my hotel with massive, grunting, GM trucks backing huge, glossy, expensive looking, fishing boats into the water – ready for another day in the sport fishing capital of the world.

The first thing that became apparent on my drive to Islamorada from Miami airport, two days before, had been how nearly everything, and everyone, seemed to revolve around fishing: the Overseas Highway that leads you from Miami all the way to Key West was chocked with boats being towed and the closer I got to Islamorada the more tackle shops, boat brokers, marinas, charter fishing signs and 'we cook your catch' restaurant signs I saw. Even the fuel stations along the side of the road advertised live bait for sale and a fishing T-shirt and a branded cap is almost compulsory day wear! I was in an angler's paradise, and I liked it!

After a day to myself exploring the shore fishing from the bridges that connect the Keys I was packed and ready for my first day on the water; it was time to head to the Fisher Inn Resort marina in Islamorada and meet Captain Alex Monteagudo, owner of Hold Tight Charters, for day one of my Florida Keys fishing adventure. The plan was to head north into the shallow waters of Florida Bay and the Everglades National Park where we would be light tackle, inshore 'backcountry' fishing for snook, snapper, grouper, redfish, spotted trout and, if the gods looked favourably on us, tarpon.

To give you some context here on the scale of the Everglades, Florida Bay alone contains 800 square miles of marine waters and mangrove swamps – it's a vast, staggeringly beautiful wilderness to be explored; yet, from a fishing point of view, much of it is extremely shallow: you may be fishing in as little as two feet of water despite being many miles from land.

'GATOR

Our first stop was to hold the boat steady with the trolling motor, throw out a chum bag and let Captain Alex get the cast net ready to catch some pinfish – a very commonly found member of the bream family – and thread herring for live baits. Why don't more anglers in the UK use casting nets to catch baits?

Captain Alex expertly casts the net as the sun rises over the Florida Everglades

I was pondering this as I watched him expertly cast the weighted net over a school of bait fish pecking at the chum slick. The sound of the net hitting the water disturbed the early morning routine of a resident alligator which made its way to a distant mangrove island to be left in peace. That's the other thing that quickly becomes apparent about the Everglades – the sheer amount of wildlife around every turn: dolphins, manatees, turtles, sharks, flamingos and sea eagles all put in an appearance over the course of the day, almost in a choreographed 'Everglade's Got Talent' wildlife display routine for visiting tourists. The only creature that didn't enter the display was the invasive Burmese python which can grow to 20 feet long and have taken over the habitat, decimating the Everglades' furry mammal population. With 'gators, giant pythons and bull sharks there's plenty of wildlife to keep you on your toes, and your toes out of the water!

Bait tank filled, it was time to open up the twin outboards on the 25-foot boat, burn some fuel, and make our way to the first mark. We would be fishing very light tackle tactics with lure rods, fixed spool reels and weighted foam floats, under which we would be fishing live baits: simple yet effective.

The mangrove islands create an underwater network of roots that provide the perfect nursery habitat for small fish to hide and feed in. Unsurprisingly, this is why it also attracts predators who stalk the boundaries of the underwater forest in search of prey. The technique is to cast the live bait as close as possible to the mangrove without casting too far into the mangrove where, invariably, it would get snagged and lost. Six inches too short and you wouldn't find the fish, six inches too long and you were snagged in

Manatees are a common sight when fishing

The ice box: an essential item for Florida!

David with a mangrove snapper

Captian Alex with a rigged pinfish live bait

"Even the fuel stations along the side of the road advertised live bait for sale and a fishing T-shirt and a branded cap is almost compulsory day wear! I was in an angler's paradise, and I liked it!"

the bushes. Placing the bait with a perfectly weighted cast proved a challenge! But the challenge was about to get a whole lot harder when it became apparent that, for whatever reason, the fish were right in amongst the mangroves and our casts would need to somehow get under the overhanging branches where our live baits would be close enough to tempt them out of their snaggy lairs.

A smashed bait and flash of silver from an early tarpon raised my hopes for more to come but, in true fishing cliché, we were then struggling to buy a bite and the phrase 'you should have been here yesterday' was actually uttered. We were running low on pinfish and Captain Alex decided to move on to using the herring we had in the tank, which were smaller and much more delicate. A mangrove snapper and a couple of jacks followed but the morning's fishing was decidedly slow until a lazy lemon shark which had been cruising the mangroves in front of us decided to take a live bait. Floridians have a funny relationship with sharks: most anglers tend to see them as pests and not worth fishing for. Maybe it's because there are so many of them and they are too easy to catch. Maybe it's because they follow you around, looking for an easy meal and spook the fish you are targeting. I, however, was delighted to catch one and add another Florida Keys species to my tally!

Casting accurately was essential in the conditions

GROUPER

Alex has been a captain backcountry fishing the Everglades for 20 years and was a pro at spotting the fish and identifying them as they approached my live bait. Before long the float went under and he cried 'it's a grouper!'. After a short tussle the fish was in the net and I had my first Goliath grouper. While this little fellow may not have been a Goliath in size I was over the moon. Growing up I had learned about these extraordinary fish which can grow to over eight foot long and over 600lb. At this size they are the super predators of the ocean and will even engulf sharks in their cavernous mouths. Everything is prey for a big Goliath grouper! As a boy I had also learned how susceptible the species is to overfishing. It's the largest species of grouper in the Atlantic Ocean and almost exclusively found in Florida and Caribbean waters.

They were protected in 1990 and classed as critically endangered until 2018. However, Goliaths have been making a comeback and in 2023 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission controversially lifted the ban allowing limited, and very tightly controlled, harvesting by recreational fishing. Young Goliaths spend their juvenile years in the backcountry of the Everglades before migrating offshore to take up residence in deep water reefs and wrecks.

You'll also find them around the piles of the many bridges that connect the Keys where they lurk around the structure waiting to ambush anything that is dumb enough to get within striking range of their enormous mouths.

"If you hook one you must keep the rod tip low to the water and away from the mangrove bushes," said Captain Alex.

"It's tempting to strike and lift the rod upwards, but you'll more than likely get the line caught in the mangroves and lose the fish."

With this advice heeded, we pressed on and motored to yet another mangrove island in search of better luck.

With the trip edging ever closer to its conclusion both Captain Alex and I were determined to end on a high. The fishing had not been easy but despite the lack of snook, and the intensifying heat as the sun rose ever higher in the sky, I was laser-focused on casting, recasting, and putting my baits in the all-important sweet spot just in front of the mangrove. At the very least it wouldn't be through a lack of effort that we hadn't caught a snook or a tarpon yet! Arriving at the final mark Captain Alex said he knew there were some big groupers here which he had seen last time he was here with customers. All we needed was the local sharks to make themselves scarce and perhaps we were in with a chance.

FINAL FLING

With one pinfish live bait held back, just in case, I was now entering the last chance saloon. Once the pinfish was gone we were heading for home. It's at these moments that you want things to click and come together, for all the experience you've gained, and effort you've put in, to be channelled into this one final moment of perfect opportunity. Alas, my final, hopelessly wayward, cast sent the poor pinfish flying into the mangrove bushes, the line inevitably tangled and the chance lost for ever.

After a few brief seconds of screaming a tirade of crude, mainly four letter, Anglo-Saxon words in frustration at my crushing stupidity and unwavering incompetence, Captain Alex grabbed the rod and twanged the taut line, propelling the pinfish and float back over the mangrove from whence it came before it 'plopped' into the water in front of us. Unbelievably, it was free from the mangrove and still on the hook, albeit somewhat dazed, confused, and a little worse for wear. As far as a 'live' bait, it was hanging on in there and on life support; the last rites weren't far away! It had one last cast left in it.

Summoning all my remaining powers of concentration, focus and determination, I flicked the rod and sent the pinfish on its final voyage into the unknown. It travelled through the air in what seemed like slow motion before the float and bait sailed through the gap in the overhanging mangrove and landed with pinpoint precision at the edge of the mangrove. 'Great cast!' said Alex, at which moment the float disappeared under the surface and he shouted, 'big grouper on!'.

This was it. It had literally come down to the very last cast of the day, but I still had to get the fish out of the tangle of mangroves and to the boat. Keeping the rod tip as low as possible I immediately applied pressure in order to keep Goliath from retreating any deeper into the network of snags. The fish, however, had other ideas and almost immediately began taking line off the reel. It was clear this was one of the big groupers Captain Alex knew were in residence here. With my heart in my mouth, and Captain Alex's expert advice in my ear, I managed to steer the fish into open water where the odds were now much more heavily stacked in my favour and before long the beast was netted and aside the boat. At somewhere between 20lb-30lb it was a specimen Goliath grouper for the Florida Keys backcountry and Captain Alex assured me he may only see five to ten this size over the course of a year. Releasing the fish back into the water I was in awe of its power and hoped that one day it would make its way into the deep waters of the gulf and grow to become a mega grouper, living a long-life snacking on sharks as the king of the reef!

Was I elated? Yes. Was I exhausted? Utterly! Had the trip been a success? Without a shadow of a doubt – but perhaps not in the way I had expected.

"That's the essence of successful fishing," I said to Captain Alex, as we packed up ready to make it back to Islamorada in time for a swim at the pool and a much needed cold one, or two. "Today just shows that it might come down to the very last cast, which is why you need to keep fishing, keep persevering, keep the faith that everything will come together in the end."

At the end of the day, whatever happens, and wherever you are, keep fishing hard until the very last cast. Never say die and never give up. You just never know what might happen! ■

Above: returning Goliath to his mangrove lair safely was a joy

America As You Like It has a seven-night holiday to Florida from £1,980 per person, including return flights from London Heathrow to Miami and car hire. Also included are two nights at the Fisher Inn on Islamorada, three nights at the Oceans Edge Resort & Marina on Key West and two nights at Hawks Cay Resort on Marathon.
www.americaasyoulikeit.com
Tel: 020 8742 8299

Contact Captain Alex for a day's fishing at holdtightcharters.com

Fishing in the Everglades National Park requires a day pass to be purchased. Day pass information and purchasing options can be found at www.nps.gov

For more information about visiting the stunning Florida Keys yourself go to www.fla-keys.co.uk

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PENN Squall Lever Drag Reel

The PENN Squall Lever Drag is lightweight and ergonomic. Made from graphite for its lightweight and corrosion resistant benefits. The Versa-Handle System allows the angler to choose how long the handle should be in less than a minute: tools are included with each reel.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1512	50 LD	310yds/50lb	~~£249.99~~	£99.00

Shakespeare Agility Surf Reel

Purpose built for UK beach fishing, Shakespeare's Agility Surf range are designed to handle saltwater use, and are thoroughly tested for reliability. Features a large capacity, distance casting spool, matched with a smooth drag system.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP3392	70	20lbs/240yds	~~£67.99~~	£40.00

PENN Squall II Star Drag Reel

SALE

Due to its innovative Live Spindle construction, the PENN Squall is lightweight, quick to recover, and very castable. The Squall II is more angler-friendly than ever before, thanks to PENN's patented Fast Gear Access Sideplate.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE2320	30 RHW	495yds/80lb	~~£244.99~~	£89.99
PE2322	40 RHW	580yd/80lb	~~£254.99~~	£99.00
PE2323	40 LHW	580yd/80lb	~~£249.99~~	£99.00

okuma Distance Surf Arena Fixed Spool Reel

- Graphite blade body
- Worm shaft Oscillation system
- 1 one-way roller bearing
- Cold Forged Aluminium Distance spool
- Flex aluminium line clip
- Bail lock system
- Holds 210m of 20lb mono

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SV20018	DSA-60	0.40mm/210m	~~£59.99~~	£50.00

PENN Warfare Level Wind Multiplier

Engineered to be an extremely versatile all-round reel at an affordable price. It features a lightweight graphite frame and sideplates with aluminium frame rings for improved rigidity to prevent frame-flex.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1684	LH 20	315yds/20lb	~~£94.99~~	£70.00
PE1685	30	370yds/30lb	~~£94.99~~	£90.00

SONIK SKS Black Surf Reel

The Sonik SKS8000 Surf reel is a full-sized surf reel which has been designed to meet the requirements of the UK beach angler. The spool design gives smooth long casts and the large handle helps to speed gear and fish back to the beach.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SO0481	8000	220yds/20lb	~~£49.99~~	£39.99

Daiwa Sealine Slosh Multipliers

The SL20SH and SL30SH are two top drawer performers boasting powerful, high speed gearing. Nicknamed 'Slosh' by their many fans around UK coastlines, they are excellent for all shore work, uptiding and a variety of down tide boat fishing.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
DW0631	SL20SH	250m/20lbs	~~£135.00~~	£100.00
DW0633	SL30SH	300m/20lbs	~~£135.00~~	£100.00

Tronixpro Virtuoso Air Surf Reels

Made from high strength, lightweight graphite. An upgrade from the original Virtuoso is the screw in CNC machined handle.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
TX7660	5000	250m/0.21mm	~~£104.99~~	£40.00
TX7659	8000	200m/0.35mm	~~£119.99~~	£70.00

Abu Garcia Ambassadeur CS Pro Rocket Level Wind 7000

The Ambassadeur CS Pro Rocket form Abu Garcia is an international best seller. Engineered for super castability, this superb reel also features a synchronised level wind system for even line lay.

CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PU4204	250yds/20lb	~~£169.99~~	£100.00

iMAX Oceanic Luggage

Easy to clean with sallwater resistant zippers.

CODE	MODEL	RRP	NOW
SV24393	Rucksack	~~£74.99~~	£45.00
SV24399	EVA Accesory Bag	~~£19.99~~	£10.00
SV24400	Cooler Wallet	~~£24.99~~	£10.00

PENN MAG4 Star Drag Multiplier Reels

- Adjustable magnetic brake system with extended adjustment knob
- Premium oiled spool bearings
- Fast gear access sideplate

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE2287	515	320yds/30lb	~~£189.99~~	£150.00
PE2288	525	270yds/50lb	~~£199.99~~	£160.00

DAM iMAX FR Competition Beach Shelter

HALF PRICE

- Super lightweight shelter
- Pegging points and sand skirt
- External rod holders
- Packs down small for transport
- Comes in storage bag with handles
- 110x20x14cm

SV17770
RRP: £189.99
£95

Fisheagle Expert MKII 2pc Flotation Suit

The latest edition of the best selling Expert 2-piece Flotation suit is state of the art and has been produced and conforms to ISO 12402-5 & 12402-6 regulations. This update has all the functions and quality that you are used too, but with a modern touch and extra safety features. Bib and Brace trousers that are certified as a 50 Newton Buoyancy Aid having been specially designed to elevate the top half of your body when in water.

ALL SIZES
RRP: £139.99
£119.99

CODE	SIZE
RE0852	S
RE0853	M
RE0854	L
RE0855	XL
RE0856	2XL
RE0857	3XL
RE0858	4XL

BEACHCASTER & SURF RODS

Best Selling Century Rods

Century lives to push the boundaries of performance. Their rods are manufactured in a state of the art factory based in the UK.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
Kompressor SS Beachcaster					
CN0078	13ft 10	4-7oz	2	~~£570.00~~	£499.00
Tip Tornado Graphex Sport Beach Rod					
CN0179	13ft 11	125-225g	2	~~£685.00~~	£600.00
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch Beach Rod					
CN0180	13ft 6	125-200g	2	~~£640.00~~	£560.00
Tip Tornado Graphex Match Beach Rod					
CN0181	13ft 6	125-175g	2	~~£635.00~~	£555.00
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch LD Beachcaster					
CN0182	13ft	50-150g	2	~~£610.00~~	£535.00
Tip Tornado Graphex Ultralite ST Beachcaster					
CN0183	13ft	50-125g	2	~~£585.00~~	£510.00
Fireblade Surf Rods					
CN0394	13ft	4-6oz	2	~~£315.00~~	£275.00
CN0505	14ft	4-7oz	2	~~£370.00~~	£325.00
Fireblade GT Glass Tip Surf Rods					
CN0532	13ft	4-6oz	2	~~£315.00~~	£275.00
CN0533	14ft	4-7oz	2	~~£370.00~~	£325.00

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR HUGE STOCK OF CENTURY RODS!

PENN Tidal Surfcasting Rods

BEST SELLER

Tidal stands for everything you need for surfcasting: Super strong but lightweight and responsive 30T carbon blanks that are designed to have the best distance properties.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE2301	14ft	50-200g	3	~~£119.99~~	£110.00
PE2302	14ft	100-225g	3	~~£139.99~~	£120.00
PE2303	14ft	100-250g	3	~~£139.99~~	£130.00
PE2304	14ft	100-300g	3	~~£139.99~~	£130.00

Tronixpro Guerilla Beachcaster Rods

A well priced continental rod that packs a punch at a price everybody can afford. Ideally suited to fishing clean beaches when targeting species such as flounder, whiting, plaice and dogfish.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
TX7658	13ft 6	150-225g	2	£99.99
TX7656	13ft 7	100-200g	3	£99.99

Mitchell Suprema 3.0 Surf & Beach Rods

SALE

The development of the Surf Master took 2 years of development and testing. A high modulus carbon blank was created that combines the right flexibility and strength with unrivalled tip sensitivity.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PU10110	13ft 9	100g	3	~~£154.99~~	£80.00
PU10111	13ft 9	130g	3	~~£159.99~~	£80.00
PU10113	13ft 9	250g	3	~~£174.99~~	£95.00

Fisheagle Saracen Beachcaster Rods

FULL CARBON

- Designed to offer unbeatable value for money, ideal for the occasional angler or beginner.
- Suitable for general beach fishing but also capable of fishing in mixed ground and from offshore structures.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
RE0549	12ft	4-8oz	3	~~£69.99~~	£49.99
RE0550	13ft	4-8oz	3	~~£79.99~~	£54.99
RE0551	14ft	4-8oz	3	~~£84.99~~	£59.99

Fisheagle Saracen Complete Beach

- Fisheagle Saracen 12ft 2pc Beachcaster Casts 2-4oz
- Fisheagle Q8 8000 Surfcasting Fixed Spool Reel
- Reel is Loaded with with 20lb Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet with 10 Popular assorted Ready Tied Bait Beach rigs
- Spool of 40lb Powerstorm Vi Vis Shockleader

RE0721
RRP: ~~£98.96~~
£49.99

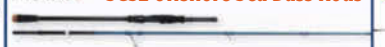
Tronixpro Banzai Beach Series Rods

The BZ4 is a light beach or estuary continental style rod while the BZ5 is an excellent all-rounder continental rod.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
TX9030	BZ4	14ft 9	3-5oz	3	~~£144.99~~	£100.00
TX9032	BZ5	14ft 9	4-6oz	3	~~£149.99~~	£100.00

BASS & SPINNING RODS

Savage Gear SGS2 Offshore Sea Bass Rods



Become a master of catching sea bass offshore with rods designed specifically to do just that, by casting or vertically. Despite being excellent for targeting offshore sea bass, they are also perfect for catching other salty predators.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SV23958	7ft	5-18g	2	~~£99.99~~	£40.00
SV23959	7ft	7-28g	2	~~£99.99~~	£40.00
SV23960	7ft	15-45g	2	~~£99.99~~	£40.00

Abu Garcia Max X Bass Spinning Combo

The MAX X combos are light, modern, strong and reliable spinning combos for predator fishing. Comes with a MAX X rod & reel.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
PU11135	10ft	15-40g	2	~~£129.99~~	£60.00

Shakespeare Ugly Stik GX2 Spinning Rod

The next generation of the lauded Ugly Stik range, the Ugly Stik GX2 range of spinning rods have a lighter feel with the same toughness that makes Ugly Stik the workhorse of anglers everywhere. The graphite and fibreglass construction create super strong yet sensitive rods with improved balance.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
PU5075	10ft	20-80g	2	~~£69.99~~	£40.00

BOAT RODS

PENN Squadron II Boat Rods

This series features a more modern sporting blank with an action designed to achieve high performance in both fishing and casting. Suitable for both spinning and bottom fishing, guldes are braid friendly.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE1821	Boat	7ft	20-30lb	2	~~£69.99~~	£60
PE1823	Braid	8ft 3	20-30lb	1+1	~~£79.99~~	£60

Shakespeare Firebird Boat Multiplier Rod & Reel + Lucas Pirk Combo

Firebird Combos are perfect for anglers looking for a reliable product without breaking the bank. They display strong and attractive Firebird artwork and cosmetics that appeal to anglers of all ages.

HALF PRICE

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4898	7ft	20-30lb	2	~~£69.99~~	£29.99

Fisheagle Match Tripods

Economic Telescopic 2 Rod Tripod from Fisheagle that's fantastic for anglers on the move. Easy to fit in your quiver, it packs down to 91 or 120cm for whenever you see a likely mark.

CODE	MODEL	RRP	NOW
RE0365	2 Rod Travel 91-152cm	~~£44.99~~	£34.99
RE0851	2 Rod Extending 120-195cm	~~£39.99~~	£29.99

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROGER MUNRO

[HOW TO BECOME) KING CONGER

Roger Munro explores the life and habits of the fearsome conger eel and explains how to successfully catch these masters of predation from the shore

Can you help me mister?" was the plaintive cry blowing across a chilly wind buffeting the pier on which I was fishing. Roused from the intense focus I had on my two rods, I turned to see a forlorn angler soaked to the skin clutching an old boat rod and an even older fixed spool reel.

"Please mister, what bait do I need to use? I've got loads of earthworms; where do I cast, and could I please borrow a hook? I've never been fishing here before."

I gave him some mackerel and squid, some 4/0 hooks and swivels then showed him how to load a large mackerel / squid cocktail bait and advised him to drop it directly down the side of the pier. I then, rather rudely, turned my back on him and continued fishing.

Twenty minutes later, I heard a familiar, pitiful, appeal "Can you help me mister? I think I'm stuck". To his credit, he tried his best to retrieve the hook and trace but all his efforts were in vain. I advised him to leave it for 10 minutes in the hope that the tidal current would help to dislodge the terminal tackle. Slowly but surely it did and then, there it was, rising from the depths, the biggest conger eel I have ever seen, a magnificent specimen of at least 40-45lb. "What do I do now mister?" was his initial deadpan response followed by "Is that a tidy fish?". Initially lost for words, I informed him that he would never again catch another specimen like that, and in the absence of a drop-net I handed him my scissors so that he

could free the fish. Muttering under my breath about the frustrating and unfair quirks of angling, I continued fishing for another hour then packed up and prepared to go home. As I passed "King Cong" he once again uttered the now familiar plea "Can you help me mister, I'm stuck again?" We went through the same ritual as before and yes, there it was again – "The tidy fish". I told him he could keep my scissors after he freed the fish for the second time!

One of the great attractions of fishing is its unpredictability, epitomised most strikingly by this most astonishing incident involving a most remarkable specimen. Fishing for congers was first recorded in the 12th century during which locations on the Channel Islands of Guernsey and Sark were designated as places where congers were dried. The name 'conger' for this species of eel first appeared in 1300 and is derived from the Latin word conger ("sea-eel").

Smaller specimens of conger eel can be confused with the common eel, but the conger has pointed pectoral fins, the upper jaw slightly overlaps the lower and the dorsal fin originates further forward on the body and merges with the anal fin.

Eels differ from traditional fish in that they have no scales. Instead, their body is covered in a protective mucus layer than can hold water which allows them to breathe on dry land for a few hours. The skin of the conger is dark grey, bluish or green in colour, but its colouration changes markedly depending on the type of ground on which it lives. Its eyes are relatively large and its lips are prominent.

The European conger eel is the largest of 14 species of eels and is widely distributed from Norway and Iceland to Senegal, including the Mediterranean, Azores and Canary Islands. At least one species of conger eel is found in every ocean in the world.

Although 70 per cent of the eels eaten in the world are caught around Japan, European conger eels are occasionally found for sale at fishmongers in the UK for dishes such as baked conger with tomato. It is a fish which is much more widely appreciated by Spanish and Algerian consumers.

Chris Kennedy with a specimen eel from the Channel Islands

POPULATION

There is little data available on the population of this enigmatic species but it is not considered to be threatened, although there is some limited evidence that its stock may be in slow decline. However, it is currently listed as "least concern" by the International Union for Conservation and Nature (IUCN).

The conger eel inhabits sandy and rocky coasts, colonising crevices in rocks, shipwrecks and harbour walls from the shoreline to depths of 1200m. Congers are opportunistic predators but they are virtually blind, hunting by smell, foraging in the water column usually at night. Indeed, almost 85 per cent of their activities occur during darkness, but during the day they tend to hole up dozing in a rock crevice.

The conger is a major predator of octopuses which are its second most frequent prey, as shown by studies investigating the conger's stomach content. Octopuses exhibit sophisticated defensive behaviours to escape congers – they first envelop the conger's head, then occlude the eel's eyes with their arms to obscure its view, they then cover the eel's gills in an attempt to suffocate it, then they release ink. The ink causes irritation when entering the conger's eyes and impedes its sense of smell and taste. The octopuses sometimes lose appendages because of the fight and the congers sometimes suffer the loss of an eye during the altercation.

A strap eel

In addition to octopus, its preferred menu comprises about 70 per cent fish, with a special fondness for a variety of flatfish, cod and haddock. Congers also relish crustaceans favouring crabs and lobsters. Adult conger eels typically feed around two to three times a week, while juveniles need to eat more frequently to support their rapid growth and have considerable ability to regulate their feeding in accordance with their life stage.

What is it about the conger eel that makes it such an effective, aggressive and feared predator? A master of hiding and camouflage with a flexible body and marbled scale colouration that mimics the ocean floor, it can remain undetected by both prey and predators.

BACKWARDS SWIMMING

Congers can swim backwards and have hundreds of bones in their spines. They move by generating waves that travel the length of their body similar to a snake.

Releasing the beast!

They then simply reverse this movement to swim backwards, often doing so when searching and manoeuvring for prey in dark and complex environments, and also as a 'burst' escape response. Head movements in conger eels are very pronounced during backward swimming but since this is disadvantageous during escape from predators it explains why they usually switch to forward swimming after just a few backward swimming cycles. This phenomenon of backward swimming has been described in only a very few species of fish.

Congers have narrow, closely spaced rows of highly pointed, triangular teeth. Their recurved, conical teeth are mainly arranged in one or more (usually two) rows, although towards the front and in the roof of the mouth there are many more rows. Congers are aggressive, voracious predators with very strong bites, catching their prey in their large mouths by swimming close to the ground and feeding mainly at night. The eel's mouth opens and shuts while it sleeps and its body rocks back and forth as if it were snoring or having a dream.

Don't get too close to the toothy end!

LIFESPAN

Conger eels grow relatively slowly at around 10cm a year. Males rarely grow over 100cm whereas females can reach over 200cm. The maximum lifespan of a conger eel is believed to be 20 years. The UK and World shore caught record is 68lb 8oz caught in 1992 at Devil's Point, Plymouth. The largest European conger eel ever recorded was a gigantic fish of 350lb and 9.8 feet long found trapped in nets off the Westmann Islands on Iceland's south coast.

European eel skin shows potent anticoagulant activity which could have huge benefits in medical practice to help prevent blood clots. Raw eel's blood is toxic; its blood contains a protein which causes muscular cramps and can cramp your heart muscles.

I advised him to leave it for 10 minutes in the hope that the tidal current would help to dislodge the terminal tackle. Slowly but surely it did and then, there it was, rising from the depths, the biggest conger eel I have ever seen, a magnificent specimen of at least 40-45lb

Congers, especially the big ones, are much more active during darkness

However, these toxins break down when heated so it becomes safe to eat when cooked.

They have remarkable electric organs which allow them to generate weak electrical signals aiding in navigation and to more effectively communicate with other eels. If these extraordinary characteristics weren't enough they also exhibit intriguing social hierarchies, establishing pecking orders based on size, strength and dominance. The largest and most dominant eels occupy the top positions, enjoying the best access to food and shelter. Submissive eels, on the other hand, follow the lead of their dominant counterparts.

Sex segregation occurs in the conger eel population where males and females occupy different depths. Immature females are almost exclusively caught in coastal inshore waters whilst males are mostly absent from this area, instead being caught in deeper offshore waters. All large congers around the Irish coast are females and they are the largest eels in the world.

Mating behaviours in conger eels are even more intriguing! It is widely agreed that the eels migrate without resting to deep offshore waters to spawn in depths ranging from 600m to 4000m. Several spawning grounds have been identified to serve conger eels in the North Eastern Atlantic including the Sardinian Channel between Gibraltar and the Azores and near the Azores archipelago where they meet up with other congers from all over Europe. The spawning season is believed to take place in the summer months but may vary depending on location.

Female conger eels only reproduce once, then they die. As the ovaries develop, they increase to an enormous size that entirely fills up the abdominal cavity pressing the other abdominal organs into a small space. The females become black in colour and their eyes become larger while other body tissues degenerate, their skeletons dissolve and their teeth fall out as the ovaries increase in size. After releasing several million eggs in open water, the female dies due to her degenerative state. Little is known about larval development and migratory routes but during this perilous stage, the larvae float to the surface and drift together with plankton, carried by the current for almost two years until they reach shallower waters where they will have transformed into true conger-like fish. ■

TOP TIPS FOR CATCHING SHORE CONGERS

■ **Congers can be caught year-round. On most shore marks, they tend to feed just after low water for a couple of hours, then literally go off the feed. Fish bigger than 20lb normally feed alone and show up at any stage of the tide, though more typically when the tide run is stronger and the seas are rougher with a good swell.**

■ **The best rough-ground, deep water fishing is from artificial breakwaters and rock ledges in over 30-feet of water.**

■ **The key to successful conger fishing is to target them during darkness. Although juvenile 'strap' conger to around 10lb can be caught from well-coloured water in daylight, night-time fishing tends to be much more productive.**

■ **Ideal rods are those with stiff lower mid and butt sections that can apply maximum pressure to bully fish away from snags. Reels should be loaded with 30lb mono and 80lb shock leaders. Hook lengths should be constructed of wire or heavy-duty monofilament. Minimise tackle loss by using a simple, weak link system between the rig and the weight.**

■ **A consistent bait for shore conger is a mackerel / squid cocktail. Blast frozen mackerel are ideal. Fresh fillets of pout, whiting and rockling can be very effective, so too are small whole live or dead pout and poor cod. Smaller eels often fall to king ragworm or lug baits and occasionally to crab.**

■ **Shore congers are a common catch from south-west England, throughout the west coasts of Wales and Scotland and in Ireland from marks west of Waterford, throughout Cork and Kerry and all along the west coast.**

■ **Conger fishing requires a lot of patience. If your baits are prepared properly, they will release their natural juices over an extended period of time. Conger often ignore a bait for ages before finally taking it. Be patient!**

■ **Fish a second or even a third rod for smaller species such as rockling, pouting or poor cod. These make great fresh baits when filleted or simply used whole as live bait which are frequently the only bait the conger will take.**

■ **Avoid using baits which are too big otherwise you will experience a high proportion of dropped takes. Big eels can be very shy biters; they often pull lightly at the bait as they gently and gradually take it into the back of their mouths. If the rod tip starts to indicate a bite, allow a couple of feet of free line to run off the reel which occurs as the eel takes the bait and moves away, then strike, lift the rod high and enjoy the ride!**

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David Mitchell, Editor

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Words
SIMON SMITH

Tales from the tideline

COMMUNITY CLUB SPIRIT

Simon Smith recounts the lessons and memories of his youth during a brief period as a member of a local fishing club

The sun dips toward the horizon, suffusing everything beneath with an amber glow. With each second that passes, lengthening shadows drape across the landscape, dust sheets pulled into place at the final closing of another day. The gentle slosh of water shushes everything to a motionless silence. But not everything is lifeless. Against this backdrop, one shadowy figure stands out against the evening sky, an isolated, lone figure, standing "solitary as an oyster" upon the beach. It waits, this figure, shuffling slightly from time to time, a turn of the head to consider some distant splash before all focus is returned to that tiny point where a thin line enters the water, connecting one world with another.

Mention the word "fisherman" to any non-angler and the above image, or at least a rendition of it, will spring to their lips. Some may add a sprinkling of irony and a touch of laconic wit, adding descriptions like "idiot" and "scarecrow", perhaps popping a set of yellow oilskins into the mix, but the overriding perception of those who fish is that it is purely a lonesome, contemplative and serious pursuit. Okay, it is fair to say that there is a strong element of truth to this image (I regularly become that shadowy figure when looking for a little peace and quiet) because angling manages to exert a strange allure which makes enticing the prospect of being alone, yet this is not all

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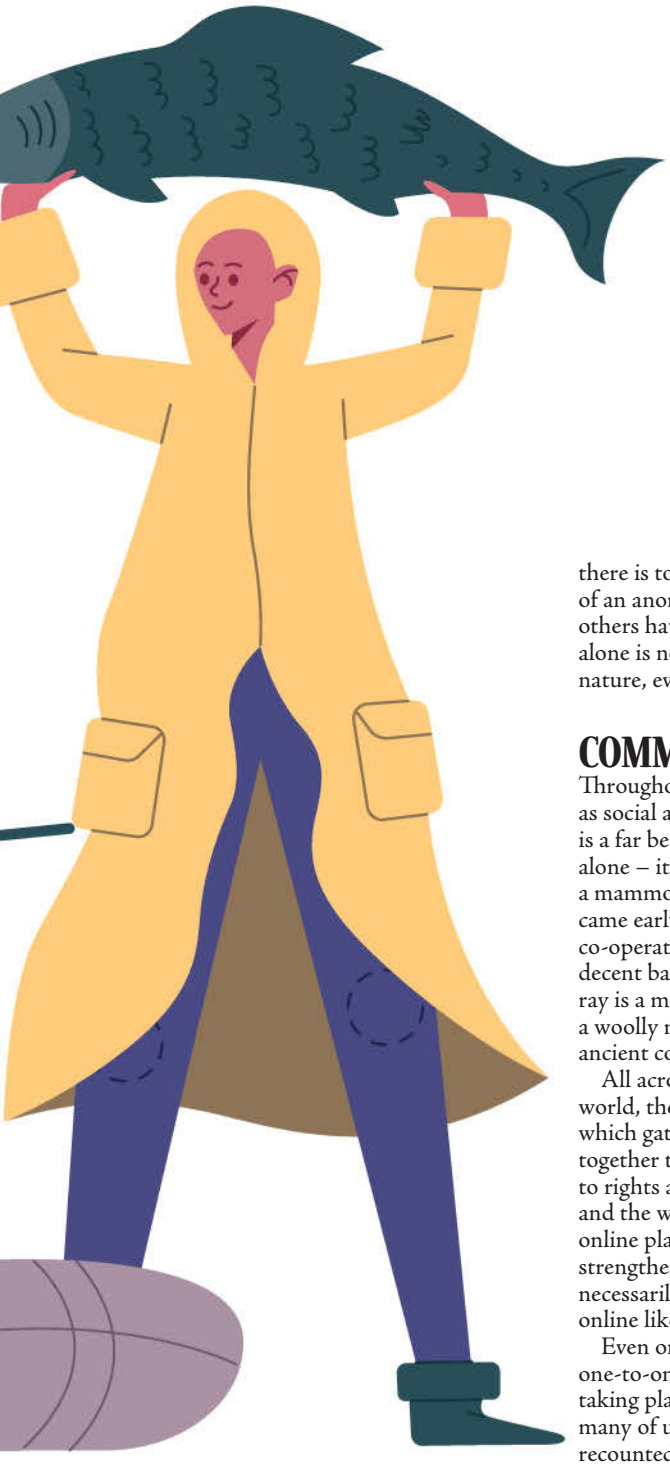


"Constantly harassed and flustered, head half in the clouds, I couldn't think of anyone less qualified to organise a club and yet, somehow, the subs were always collected in, the sessions arranged and the club brought to order"

there is to the angler. In fact, it is something of an anomaly for, despite how so many others have come to see us, to be utterly alone is not, largely speaking, in our human nature, even as anglers.

COMMUNITY

Throughout human history, we have existed as social animals, realising that community is a far better option than trying to survive alone – it was impossible to bring down a mammoth single-handed, and so we came early to rely upon the company and co-operation of others. Whilst a flounder, a decent bass or even a lunking great blonde ray is a much easier solo proposition than a woolly mammoth, some remnant of that ancient collective instinct remains.

All across the country, and indeed the world, there are countless clubs and groups which gather millions of likeminded anglers together to chew the fat, put the world to rights and share their views on fishing and the wider world. The expansion of online platforms and social media has only strengthened this and, where anglers can't necessarily meet, they can now communicate online like never before.

Even on a more basic level, in that one-to-one human interaction that has been taking place since time immemorial, how many of us have fished for the day then recounted the session's events over a coffee or a pint, dissecting each tackle choice, every missed bite and those glorious encounters with our quarry, triumphs and disasters alike, planting the seeds of daydreams and sessions yet to come?

Perhaps the final way in which angling is far more sociable than its reputation suggests is in the way it welcomes newcomers and youngsters. When I started to fish, I recall the gruff faces of the grown men all around me, feeling intimidated and nervous to ask about anything. It all seemed very much like a closed club, a club to which I could never belong. My grandfather and my neighbour Andy, with whom we started fishing, would regularly spend more time in conversation with these fellow men while waiting for a bite, leaving me to look up at their faces and wondering if I would ever belong.

However, as time went on, these faces softened, became more familiar and even started to include me in those conversations, firing the odd joke or encouraging my way; hooks, rigs, sinkers, a handful of lugworms and a wise word or two were all passed on with more regularity as they stood around and watched me buzz around the fishing mark like a fly, as eager at the very last cast as I was at the very first, shooting out the occasional word of guidance just to correct me if I went a little wrong. Thus, I was accepted into the angling fraternity even whilst it managed to maintain its

seemingly gruff exterior, and this is the primary reason why I am an angler to this day.

"Right, let's get started. Oi, Andy, tell the boys it's time to start!" Always this scramble as pints were gathered from the bar, various strands of conversation on everything from work to car engines and medical issues were snipped short and allowed to drift off as everyone gradually shoaled inward around the central cluster of tables where, amongst the wisps of cigarette smoke and clink of glasses, the jokes started to spark and catches of the past weeks were compared in the gregarious atmosphere of my first fishing club. It was a natural step in my angling apprenticeship.

After spending those early years of my angling career accumulating, piece-by-piece all the tackle I could lay my hands upon via the means of Christmases, birthdays and paper round money, learning to use each piece as well as I could, accumulating the basic knowhow and skills like handling the sandpapery dogfish and digging harbour ragworms, I was always going to search for the next natural step in building up my burgeoning toolbox of angling.

Having started my early exploits with, and learned all the basics from, my grandfather, these sessions still continued, but once or twice a month he gratefully retired to his armchair as I struck out in search of a wider knowledge base, a search which led me, along with our fishing partner Andy, to the monthly meetings of the local sea angling club. When reading the fishing magazines as a kid thirsty for more knowledge, the advice was always 'join a club', and so we found ourselves sat amongst a group of varied but interesting strangers a few Wednesdays later.

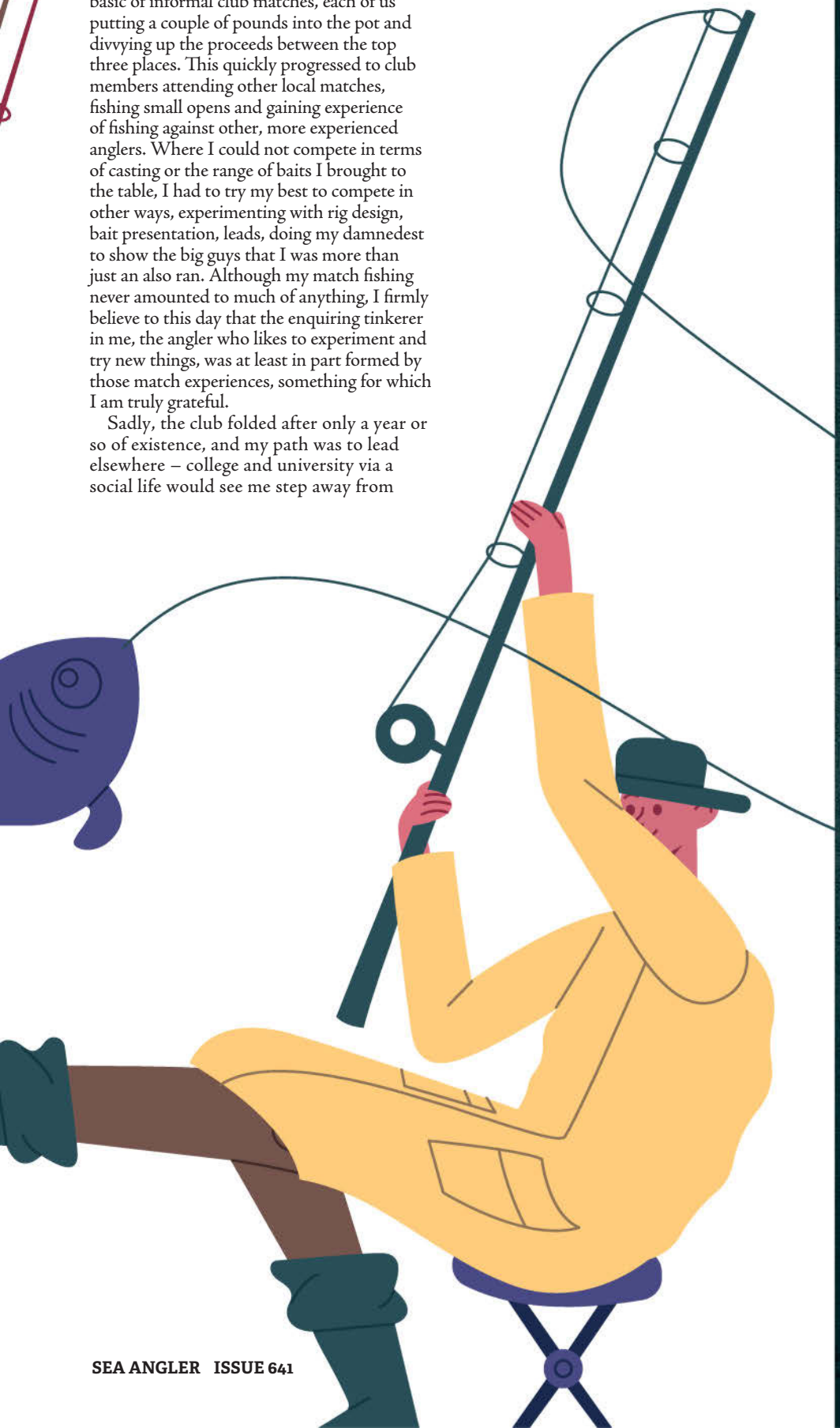
From all walks of life, this group certainly represented the broad spectrum of the angling world. At the head of the table there was Andrew, the club's founder. Constantly harassed and flustered, head half in the clouds, I couldn't think of anyone less qualified to organise a club and yet, somehow, the subs were always collected in, the sessions arranged and the club brought to order. Accompanying Andrew was his dad, known as 'Bunny' to us all. The absolute foil to his son, Bunny was always there, sat over his pint with a ready smile, a quick joke and an easy way that kept the banter flowing through every meeting.

Byron was the laid-back, easy-going member of the group. As mellow as a Sunday afternoon in slippers, he always had time for us juniors, gently teasing us yet encouraging in that fatherly way that has helped so many to take the most from a club environment. Dai (there's always a Dai or two in any given Welsh organisation) who seemed as clueless as me at the time and grateful to absorb all and any information that came his way, usually by our watching the two rare birds at the club – Nick and Tony. Members of the famous 'Cod Squad' that fished my section of the Welsh coast and beyond through the 1980s and 1990s, Nick and Tony fished with the best tackle – Daiwa Amorphous Whisker and Zziplex rods and Abu reels – and often became the focus of all attention when winding up a swishing pendulum cast on one of our chosen fishing venues. They would often turn up at club meetings fresh from angling sessions on the local breakwaters and beaches, keeping their skills honed even when getting ready to attend other commitments. Andrew would often defer to these two when discussions came around about venue choices, which led to us fishing all those venues in the area that I had heard about but never had the chance to actually fish – Sker, Ogmore Deeps, Aberthaw – names that tripped off the tongue like local legends. Of course, I was woefully underprepared for such venues with my basic tackle, but there was always a fellow member happy to lend a reel, a rod, a sinker or a few lugworm or peeler crabs, just as there had been back in the early days on the local breakwater.

MATCHMEN

Having started its existence through a few sessions in such places, the next logical step was always going to be match fishing. Starting informally, we fished the most basic of informal club matches, each of us putting a couple of pounds into the pot and divvying up the proceeds between the top three places. This quickly progressed to club members attending other local matches, fishing small opens and gaining experience of fishing against other, more experienced anglers. Where I could not compete in terms of casting or the range of baits I brought to the table, I had to try my best to compete in other ways, experimenting with rig design, bait presentation, leads, doing my damnedest to show the big guys that I was more than just an also ran. Although my match fishing never amounted to much of anything, I firmly believe to this day that the enquiring tinkerer in me, the angler who likes to experiment and try new things, was at least in part formed by those match experiences, something for which I am truly grateful.

Sadly, the club folded after only a year or so of existence, and my path was to lead elsewhere – college and university via a social life would see me step away from fishing for a few years – but those early experiences as a clubman still linger in my memory, as did the lessons they provided, memories I'm sure I share with countless others in the wider angling community in my area and far beyond. ■



WORDS AND PICTURES BY
By Mike Thrussell

NEW SERIES: WATERCRAFT ESSENTIALS

WHY WIND MATTERS

In a new series Mike Thrussell explores watercraft: the skills and knowledge about the environment every angler needs to be successful. This month he explains the effect of wind on fish and how understanding wind strength and direction will help boost your catches

WIND STRENGTH

Understanding wind strength and its bearing on a venue, or typically our choice of specific venue, is a key element to successful fishing. It has a major effect on governing how fish feed across a short stretch of coast, often concentrating them in numbers on one mark and less so on a venue nearby.

The Beaufort Scale is a scale of measure that identifies specific wind strength. The Shipping Forecast uses this for defining wind strength on forecasts and projections, and good tide tables also include it. It's an excellent aid to sea anglers defining exactly what you're likely to face on the day.

- **Force 0 - 0-1 knots: Sea calm**
- **Force 1 - 1-3 knots: Light airs**
- **Force 2 – 4-6 knots: Light breeze**
- **Force 3 – 7-10 knots: Gentle breeze**
- **Force 4 – 11-16 knots: Moderate breeze**
- **Force 5 – 17-21 knots: Fresh breeze**
- **Force 6 – 22-27 knots: Strong breeze**
- **Force 7 – 28-33 knots: Near gale**
- **Force 8 – 34-40 knots: Gale**
- **Force 9 – 41-47 knots: Strong gale**
- **Force 10 – 48-55 knots: Storm**
- **Force 11 – 56-63 knots: Violent storm**
- **Force 12 – 64 knots plus: Hurricane**

Force (Beaufort)	Wind speed			Description	Observed conditions	
	mph	km/h	knots		Sea	Land
0	<1	<1	<1	Calm	Like a mirror	Smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	1-5	1-3	Light air	Ripples	Wind motion visible in smoke
2	4-7	6-11	4-6	Light breeze	Small wavelets	Wind felt on exposed skin
3	8-12	12-19	7-10	Gentle breeze	Large wavelets	Leaves in constant motion
4	13-18	20-28	11-16	Moderate breeze	Small waves	Small branches begin to move
5	19-24	29-38	17-21	Fresh breeze	Moderate waves	Small trees begin to sway
6	25-31	39-49	22-27	Strong breeze	Large waves	Large branches in motion
7	32-38	50-61	28-33	Moderate gale	Sea heaps up	Whole trees in motion
8	39-46	62-74	34-40	Fresh gale	Moderately high waves	Small branches break
9	47-54	75-88	41-47	Strong gale	High waves	Larger branches break
10	55-63	89-102	48-55	Whole gale	Very high waves	Trees broken or uprooted
11	64-72	103-117	56-63	Storm	Exceptionally high waves	Widespread damage
12	>73	>118	>64	Hurricane	Sea completely white	Violence

To convert knots to mph, multiply by 1.15. It's worth having the Beaufort Scale on your phone for instant reference.

The TV and general online weather forecasts give an estimate of generalised wind strength by mph, but it is just that, a generalisation over a wide area. The more accurate wind strength forecast for a more specific area is the Shipping Inshore Waters forecast. Area examples being Selsey Bill to Lyme Regis or Whitby to Gibraltar Point, but it sectionally covers the whole of the UK. This, importantly, takes in the more localised geographical features that can influence wind strength.

To get a full picture of short-term future wind speeds, use a few online forecasts, but initially Ventusky when looking a week ahead which is fairly accurate, and then the BBC Inshore Waters forecast before making a final venue choice.

On shallower surf beaches and marks where you fully face the oncoming wind, Force 2 to 5 invariably give the best fishing conditions, especially if the wind is a new wind after a period of calm and the tide cycle is rising. This creates a series of steady predictable surf tables that displace sand and other ground features to expose food.

On deeper venues, a general onshore wind speed between Force 3 to 6 induces ground swell that, with undertow, again washes food from the seabed. On these deeper marks, also take note as gales pass through for the wind strength dropping. The seas remain big but there's little wind to hamper casting and it's in these conditions that big catches can be taken.

In stronger offshore winds, look to fish the deeper venues where fish numbers are likely to be more consistent.

WIND DIRECTION

Rarely are fish evenly distributed along a beach or section of coastline. The angle the wind hits a mark or beach dictates where the bulk of the food and most of the fish are likely to be.

WIND ANGLE

A wind blowing directly at a beach gives a more even distribution of fish. To gain an edge, look for areas where the surf breaks closer to shore. This indicates slightly deeper water and food will collect here. Ground feature also comes into this equation, this being the corners of a beach or specific patches of rougher ground or sandy gullies where fish will concentrate in greater numbers.

A strong offshore wind can see a new flood tide start to flood later than predicted as the wind holds the tide back briefly. Equally, a strong onshore wind sees the new flood start minutes earlier and the tide height be greater than predicted as the wind gives the tide an afterburner effect. ■

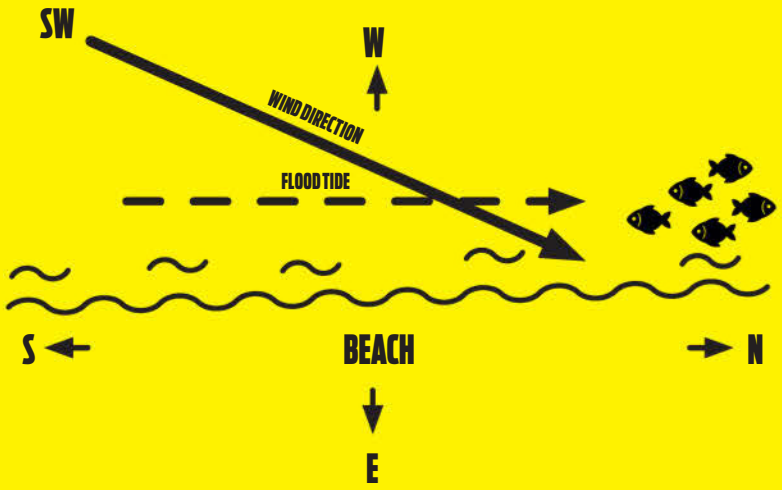
THE ANGLE EFFECT

A side on wind is a more precise indicator of where the fish will be. An example would be a beach facing due west with a left to right flood tide and a southwest wind. Any food will be pushed more towards the righthand northern end of the beach, and the fish will concentrate there. The reverse scenario is a northwest wind with a right to left ebbing tide that sees the main concentration of fish in the southern corner where the surf is more pronounced, and food being dislodged. If you're facing east, expect a wind from the south or southwest with a flooding right to left tide to draw the fish into the left corner.

On venues where the flood tide is in opposition to an angled onshore wind the more agitated sea and therefore the bulk of the fish will be in the corner or end of the beach where the wind hits.

With a big surf created by a direct onshore wind, watch for a wind angle change as a pressure system passes through. If the new wind angle is blowing more sideways on to the surf tables, this quickly flattens the waves and makes for more favourable conditions as the fish will move closer to shore. This is typical of bass, cod, flounder and rays.

Understanding wind angles in relation to the venue can also help us avoid issues with weed. On that same westerly facing venue, even if there is a left to right flood tide, the surface waves will follow the wind direction and push floating and suspended weed into the corner the wind hits. Fishing the opposite end can see little or no weed ruining a much anticipated fishing session!

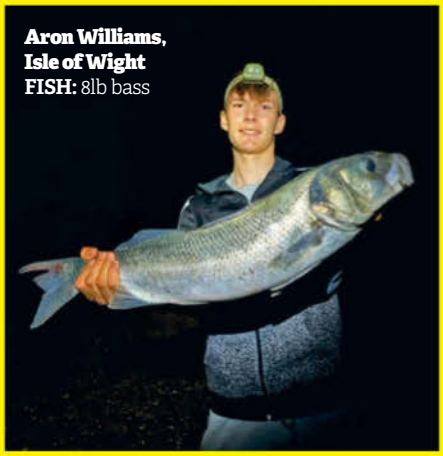


MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Mick Harden
FISH: 14lb smoothhound
BAIT: Hardback crab
VENUE: Sheerness
DATE: 24/8/24

Bernard Toner, Cardiff
FISH: 45lb monkfish **BAIT:** Pirk with a blue gummi **VENUE:** Cullivoe, Isle of Yell, Shetland
DATE: 18/08/24

Ashley Butcher from Ansty
FISH: 13lb 9oz cod
VENUE: On Happy Daze out from Newcastle



Aron Williams, Isle of Wight
FISH: 8lb bass

Rob Redman
FISH: 8lb bass **FLY:** 2in baitfish fly
VENUE: North west coast of Wales
DATE: 27/06/24

Tommy Martin, Poole
FISH: 45lb tope
BAIT: Live mackerel
VENUE: Poole
DATE: 13/8/24

Dilan Cox, Swansea
FISH: 22lb tope **BAIT:** Joey mackerel
VENUE: Friars Point, West Wales

Marrick Palmer, Falmouth
FISH: 4lb 3oz Couch's bream
BAIT: Whole squid
VENUE: Aboard Patricia rose out of Plymouth
DATE: 11/07/24

Gareth Williams, Isle of Wight
FISH: 15lb 5oz smoothhound

Jay Webber Andrews
FISH: 40lb tope
BAIT: Frozen mackerel
VENUE: Oxwich Bay
DATE: 07/09/24

YOUR FISHING CATCHES

Martin Scanlon, Southampton
FISH: 6lb bass **VENUE:** Shallow mud flat **DATE:** 24/8/24
LURE: Topwater IMA Pugachev Cobra lure in "G point" pattern.

Kaden Copp from South Wales
FISH: 6lb 7oz Blonde Ray
BAIT: Joey Mackerel
VENUE: South Wales Venue
DATE: 29/9/24

Dale Limpus
FISH: 12lb 7oz pollock
VENUE: Off Plymouth Breakwater

Rob Lee
FISH: 110lb blue shark
BAIT: Trout
VENUE: Celtic Deep on Rob Rennie's Lady Jen 'The Celtic Wildcat' from Milford Haven
DATE: 18/8/24

Camryn Davidson, Larne
FISH: 2lb three bearded rockling
DATE: 27/09/24
VENUE: Garron Point, Northern Ireland from shore
BAIT: Mackerel head

Dan Owens
FISH: 7lb thornback ray
BAIT: Double sandeel
VENUE: Anglesey rock mark

Martin Thomas
FISH: 30lb conger eel
BAIT: Live pout
VENUE: Pembrokeshire rock mark
DATE: 23/08/24

Ceirion Perry from Anglesey
FISH: 12lb thornback ray
BAIT: Whiting
VENUE: Anglesey
DATE: 20/09/24

Lewis Pett
VENUE: Yaverland, Isle of Wight
BAIT: Mackerel
FISH: 28lb conger

YOUR FISHING CATCHES

Jim Dempsey, Brighton
FISH: 9lb small eyed ray
BAIT: Squid and black lug wraps
VENUE: Brighton beach
DATE: 27/09/2024

Nick Gray
FISH: Redband fish **BAIT:** Sabikis
VENUE: Cracan, north west Scotland
DATE: 07/09/24

Ricky Baker
FISH: 3lb 6oz plaice **BAIT:** Blow lug
VENUE: Morecambe Bay

Mark Goddard
FISH: 10lb 8oz bass
BAIT: Mackerel
VENUE: Pevensey Bay
DATE: 25/09/24

HOW TO ENTER

Email only to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
Please supply these details: angler's name, age, address, telephone number, email, type of FISH, weight of FISH, where caught, DATE caught, BAIT/rig, whether caught from shore or boat, if from charter boat, give name of boat, port and skipper. Please state if the FISH was retained or returned.

Send us your entries and win some great prizes

- **SHORE LURE OPTION: Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel, RRP: £60, Epixor 15-50g rod RRP: £80**
- **SHORE LURE OPTION: Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel, RRP: £60, Epixor 15-50g rod RRP: £80**
- **BOAT: Classic CLX, RRP: £60 Cortez Boat Rod, RRP: £90**
- **SHORE BAIT OPTION: DSA reel RRP: £60, Wave Power surf rod, RRP: £80**

YOUR TARGETS...

Catch a FISH on this list at the weight or above in your region to qualify for the chance to win prizes in our Mission catch competition. To enter, send us the details requested above and email that information and your picture to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk.

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	7lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	10lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Halibut	20lb	20lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coal	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Trigger	2lb	3lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	100lb

THE RULES...

- **Only catches since September 2024 are eligible.**
- **We must see a picture of the fish.**
- **We may refuse an entry.**
- **Enter by email only (please include all of the information requested in How to Enter panel) to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk**
- **Prizes as stated (Okuma reserves the right to send alternatives).**
- **No correspondence will be entered into.**

MONTHLY WINNERS:
SHORE: Marrick Palmer, Falmouth
BOAT: Martin Thomas, Pembrokeshire

SeaAngler Guides
Boat Fishing
Everything you need to know to catch more fish
The ultimate manual for beginners to experts
Tackle | Rigs | Tips | Technique | Bait | Species

Master the tackle, tactics, techniques and rigs needed to catch all your favourite species while fishing afloat

SeaAngler Guides
Shore species
HOW YOU CAN CATCH THE TOP 30 SPECIES
EXPERT ADVICE ON BASS, COD, PLAICE, RAYS AND MANY MORE
The ultimate manual for beginners to experts
Tackle | Gear | Locations | Techniques | Bait | Fish

Sea Angler's expert advice on the bait, venues, tackle and tactics to catch your 30 favourite UK species from the shore

Where to fish? Don't miss our guide to how to catch more fish at 49 of the most iconic sea angling venues in the UK

SeaAngler Guides

Don't miss our range of essential guides to sea angling. Whatever type of fishing you enjoy, each guide is packed with everything you need to know

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Boat species
HOW YOU CAN CATCH THE TOP 25 SPECIES
The ultimate manual for beginners to experts
EXPERT ADVICE ON BASS, COD, SMOOTHHOUNDS, POLLACK AND MANY MORE
Tackle | Rigs | Locations | Techniques | Bait | Tips

Sea Angler contributor Dave Barham shares his expert advice on how to catch 25 of the most popular UK boat species

SeaAngler Guides
Lure Fishing
Expert advice on species including bass, pollack, wrasse, cod and more
Techniques for shore and boat fishing with lures
Top tips on lures, saltwater flies and light rock fishing
The ultimate manual for beginners to experts
Tackle | Lures | Tips | Techniques | Species | Knots & Rigs

Sea Angler's lure fishing expert, Henry Gilbey, guides you through all you need to know to catch more fish on lures

Top tips from a range of experts, covering all fishing methods, on how to catch the UK's most popular sea species

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In association with

YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its many younger readers

▲ **Thomas Roger Whear**, age 9 , caught this cracking 2lb 5oz black bream on 13 August from a family boat with his grandad.

▲ **Edmund Williams**, aged five, caught his first conger eel on a pulley Pennell rig using a prawn and sandeel bait on the shore at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

◀ Twelve-year-old **Sam Gammon** was boat fishing from Portland when he caught this fantastic 2lb red gurnard on ledgered mackerel strip.

▶ **Blake Pinnock** from Gosport caught this 4lb 6oz bass at Gilkicker Point. Bait was a mackerel wedge on a 4/0 Pennell rig.

▲ **Alfie Jeans**, from Dorset, with a 4lbs 11oz thin lipped mullet caught at West Bay from the East Pier whilst fishing a West Bay SAC junior match and the Wyvern Junior Open Match. This fish won him both competitions. He caught it on three hook flapper, size 6 hooks, and ragworm.

▲ **Tom Harker**, 15-years-old, with a 26lb 4oz conger taken fishing out of Weymouth on September 14th using mackerel on a flowing trace.

▲ Here is **Sofia Griffith**, aged 12, with a bass of 4lb 2oz caught at Barmouth in West Wales

Twelve-year-old **Harley Brown**, on only his third fishing trip, landed an amazing 175lb skate after fighting the fish for an hour. He caught it in Oban using a herring fillet.

£25 TACKLE VOUCHER WINNERS

Fishingmegastore.com awards a £25 voucher prize to each of two winners - the youngster with the best shore fish and another with the top boat catch. The winners can use the voucher to select tackle from **Fishingmegastore.com** which is based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

■ Send your Young Rods entries by email to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

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30g Mini Mirror
Jig/Spinning Lure for £3.60

Party Pack 6 x 180g jigs for £44.00
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From £4.67

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FLITE SURF

Strength, durability and lightness combined to create the ultimate long distance surf reel.

WEIGHS ONLY 472g

- 35mm Stroke with super slow oscillation
- Lightweight C-40X carbon frame & sideplates
- C-40X Cyclonic Flow Rotor for corrosion resistance
- Even Flow Roller System with DLC coating
- Frictionless main shaft design
- Ultra-lightweight, A7075 aluminium shaft
- 8+1 HP bearings for ultimate smoothness
- Gear Ratio: 4.3:1
- Worm shaft transmission system
- Ultra-light screw-in handle with ergonomic grip
- Carbon fibre, fast progressive drag system
- Rotor brake system
- Rotor with tangle guard
- Ideal for use with braided mainline
- Supplied with two spare spools:
  8000 aluminium spool & 3000 POM spool
- Line capacity: 0.35mm/385m, 0.38m/320m

RRP £193.75

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anyfish anywhere — Tournament Match Pro Mk2 Review

"One of the most powerful rods I've ever had the pleasure of casting...The tip speed is immense & when the timing all comes together perfectly the rod's performance is totally exquisite."
Paul Fenech, Sea Angler Magazine

PRO RED LABEL SERIES
Worlds first truly Professional standard beach fishing rods

Grand Prix Pro Mk2
Slimmed down version, lighter by about 3oz's with 24mm butt + Reducer.

	RRP	NOW
Multiplier 13ft 10in - 4-7oz (150-200g)	£599.99	£459.99

NEW Uptide Pro MK2 Models
9ft 6in 172-300g & 90-200g - from £299.99

Estuary Rods MK2

Fixed Spool or Multiplier	RRP	NOW
11ft - 30-90g	£249.99	£184.99
12ft - 30-90g	£249.99	£189.99

Bass Pro Mk1

12ft 6in - 90-150g Fixed Spool & Multiplier	RRP	NOW
	£325	£275

Match Pro MK2

13ft 7in - 150-175g	RRP	NOW
	£549.99	£499.99

GBFS Pro MK2

Fixed Spool 14ft + Reducer Casts 4-8oz (150-200g)	RRP	NOW
	£574.99	£439.99

Tournament Match Pro MK2

Multiplier 13ft 11in + Reducer Casts 5-7oz (150-200g)	RRP	NOW
	£574.99	£439.99

KALI KUNNAN — SHANGRILA TEST & TEAM

UPDATED 2024 MODEL NOW IN STOCK

	RRP	NOW
Shangrila Team 45 Test Rod - 4.23m - 100-250g - 3 Piece	£749	£675
Shangrila Team 45 Test Rod Extension 4.23m-5m	£96	£85
Shangrila Team 45 Rod - 4.23m - 100-250g - 3 Piece	£729	£649

The Kali Kunnan Shangrila is a top end amazing quality continental rod which is currently being used by the team England shore team. These are 4.2m but an extension can be purchased for the Test model to take them to 5m in length.

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anyfish anywhere — Blue Label Range

Exceptional performance both in terms of casting and fishing at a price point that makes them very accessible.

four&bait rod mk2

Surfcasting Rods	RRP	OUR PRICE
13ft 3-5oz Fixed Spool	£225	£179.99
13ft 3-5oz Multiplier	£225	£179.99
14ft 3-5oz Fixed Spool	£235	£189.99
14ft 3-5oz Multiplier	£235	£189.99

six&bait rod mk2

Surfcasting Rods	RRP	OUR PRICE
13ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£255	£199.99
13ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£255	£199.99
14ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£270	£209.99
14ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£270	£209.99
15ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£280	£219.99
15ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£280	£219.99

ASSO FISHING LINE & BRAID
Choice of 12 Lines & Leaders
SPECIAL OFFERS see website

DAIWA — SURF RODS
Fishing rods for beach fishing

SEAHUNTER Z - Beachcaster Rods
- Shrink Grip Handle • Parallel Handle design
- Power Progressive Actions
- DPS Slide Locking Reel Seat

	RRP	NOW
12ft 6in Beachcaster 4-8oz	£129.99	£109.99
13ft 6in Beachcaster 4-8oz	£139.99	£119.99
14ft Beachcaster 4-8oz	£149.99	£129.99

SEAHUNTER Z - Seabass Rods
- Suite to Fixed Spool or Multiplier • DPS Reel Seat
- Split Duplon Grip Handle

	RRP	NOW
11ft Seabass 1-3oz	£109.99	£99.99
11ft 6in Seabass 1-3oz	£109.99	£99.99

- Stainless Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Rings
- Premium Grade Blank

CROSSCAST 33 - Surf Rods
For distance beach work with a big fixed spool over clean to medium ground. The built in carbon Hybrid Tip, ensures bite detection across the species mix.

	RRP	NOW
13ft 10in Hybrid Tip 100-225g	£125	£99
14ft 10in Hybrid Tip 100-225g	£140	£115

SANDSTORM - Surf Rods
- Premium Carbon Blanks • Fuji BRC Butt Cap
- Split EVA Grip Handle • Sliding DPS Reel Seat
- SEAGUIDE Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring

		RRP	NOW
12ft 6in Multiplier	100-200g	£180	£134.99
13ft 6in Multiplier	100-200g	£190	£139.99
14ft 2in Multiplier	100-200g	£190	£139.99
12ft 6in Fixed Spool	100-200g	£180	£134.99
13ft 6in Fixed Spool	100-200g	£190	£149.99

DAIWA — SEAHUNTER Z

NEW

Seahunter Z Surf Rods			RRP	NOW
12ft 6in	4-8oz	2 Piece	£129.99	£109.99
13ft 6in	4-8oz	2 Piece	£139.99	£119.99
14ft	4-8oz	3 Piece	£149.99	£129.99

Seahunter Z Bass Rods				
11ft 6in	1-3oz	2 Piece	£109.99	£99.99
11ft	1-3oz	5 Piece	£109.99	£99.99

Seahunter Z Boat Rods				
7ft 6in	30-50lb	2 Piece	£99.99	£89.99
7ft 8in	20-30lb	2 Piece	£99.99	£89.99
7ft 10in	12-20lb	2 Piece	£99.99	£89.99
9ft 6in	4-10oz	2 Piece Uptide	£99.99	£89.99

A strong and powerful feel with no compromise on performance. This range will serve across the boat and beach spectrum with ease, delivering tremendous value for money.

SURF BASS BOAT UPTIDE

DAIWA — 4, 5 & 6 PIECE TRAVEL RODS

- HVF • X45
- 3DX • V-Joint
- Fuji 'O' Ring Guides
- Rubber Gimbal
- Multi Section assembly for compact pack down

Premium Grade Blank • Shrink Tube Handle • DPS Slide Locking Reel Seat • Stainless Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Rings

Saltist 4 & 5 Piece Travel Spin Rods

			RRP	NOW
6ft 5in	28-84g	4 Piece	£195	£159
7ft	14-42g	4 Piece	£210	£179
8ft	14-42g	5 Piece	£220	£189
8ft 6in	80-140g	5 Piece Travel	£230	£199

Tournament 4 Piece Travel Boat Rods

		RRP	NOW
6ft 6in	30-60lbs	4 Piece	£235	£189
7ft 6in	15-25lbs or 25-40lbs	4 Piece	£235	£189

Seahunter Z Bass Travel Rod - 6 Piece
11ft - 1-3oz 5 Piece...RRP £109.99 **NOW £99.99**

DAIWA — SURF RODS
Fishing rods for beach fishing

AIR SURF - Surf Rods
- SVF and X45
- Mega Top Carbon Hybrid Tip
- Guides: Fuji K Guide with Alconite (Multiplier)
- Guides: Fuji LC with Alconite (Fixed Spool)

			RRP	NOW
13ft 6in Multiplier	2 Piece	4-8oz	£515	£389
14ft 2in Multiplier	2 Piece	4-8oz	£525	£399
15ft 3in Fixed Spool	3 Piece	3-7oz	£550	£449

SALTIST - Surf Rods

			RRP	NOW
12ft 6in Multiplier		100-200g	£230	£189
13ft 6in Multiplier		100-200g	£260	£195
14ft 2in Multiplier		100-200g	£265	£199
14ft	Fixed Spool	84-150g	£270	£199
14ft	Fixed Spool Hybrid	3-6oz	£280	£219

TOURNAMENT - PRO Surf Rods

2 Piece		RRP	NOW
11ft 6in Bass Fixed Spool	2-4oz	£275	£229
13ft 6in Multiplier	3-7oz	£355	£289
14ft 6in Multiplier	4-8oz	£355	£289

TOURNAMENT - HT Surf Rods

			RRP	NOW
14ft	Fixed Spool Hybrid	3-6oz	£340	£249
15ft	Fixed Spool Hybrid	3-6oz	£360	£259

DAIWA — MULTIPLIER SURF REELS

NEW

7HT Millionaire Tournament	7HT Millionaire Mag	SL20SH Sealine Slosh	SL30SH Sealine Slosh	Saltist Level Wind 20, 30 & 40
RRP £225 **£149.99**	RRP £399 **£299.99**	RRP £135 **£109.99**	RRP £135 **£109.99**	RRP £254.99 **£229.99**

DAIWA — SURF REELS
Fishing reels for beach fishing

Shorecast 5000B & 6000B	20 Crosscast 35 SCW 5000C QD	20 Crosscast 45 SCW 5000C QD	21 Crosscast 45 SCW QD OT	23 Emblem Surf 45 SCW QD	20 T Basia 45 SCW 5000C QD
Fixed spool surf reel	Surf reel	Surf reel	Fixed spool reel	Surfcasting reel	Surf reel
RRP £94.99 **£79.99**	RRP £125 **£99.99**	RRP £150 **£115**	RRP £165 **£125**	RRP £230 **£199.99**	RRP £790 **£599**

SHIMANO — SpeedMaster H SURF RODS

A mid-priced, fast action, long range surf rod which combines a high quality carbon blank with quality fittings and powerful casting performance. Sitting in the middle of the Shimano surf rod range and offers a variety of model options to exactly suit your preference.

			RRP	NOW
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 150g - Fuji Fazlite K-type	£184.99	£145
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Fazlite K-type	£194.99	£145
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 150g - Fuji Fazlite K-type	£199.99	£149
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Fazlite K-type	£204.99	£155
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 13ft (4.05m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£189.99	£145
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£194.99	£145
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Tubular	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£194.99	£145

SHIMANO — ULTEGRA SURF HYBRID J RODS

NEW

The Ultegra Surf is designed especially for the serious ultra long range surf angler or tournament specialist. Combining some of SHIMANO'S most advanced carbon technologies with premium fittings, options of this stunning lightweight, well balanced range include both hybrid and tubular configurations to suit personal preference.

				RRP	NOW
Ultegra XR Surf 13ft	200g	Hybrid J Low Rider	3 Piece	£249.99	£229.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft	200g	Hybrid J Low Rider	3 Piece	£259.99	£234.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft	225g	Hybrid J Low Rider	3 Piece	£259.99	£234.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	200g	Hybrid J	3 Piece	£279.99	£244.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	225g	Hybrid J	3 Piece	£279.99	£244.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	250g	Hybrid J	3 Piece	£279.99	£244.99

SHIMANO — AERLEX SPECIAL OFFER
SURF HYBRID/TUBULAR RODS

SPECIAL OFFER

Affordability, impressive casting performance and build quality, make this rod ideal for the serious angler with a limited budget, or the improving angler who wants to move up the price scale.

			RRP	NOW
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 150g - Seaguide Zirconia	£129.99	£89
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Seaguide Zirconia	£129.99	£89
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 150g - Seaguide Zirconia	£134.99	£89
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Seaguide Zirconia	£144.99	£89
Aerlex Surf Rod 13ft (4.05m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	SOLD OUT	
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	SOLD OUT	
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Tubular	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£149.99	£89

SHIMANO — ULTEGRA XR SURF RODS

NEW

The Ultegra XR Surf is a highly technical rod designed especially for ultra long range fishing. Combining some of SHIMANO'S most advanced carbon technologies with advanced tapers and premium fittings, this stunning range maximises distance performance for anglers with highly tuned casting techniques.

				RRP	NOW
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft	225g	Hybrid Low Rider	3 Piece	£359.99	£329.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft	250g	Hybrid Low Rider	3 Piece	£359.99	£329.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	225g	Tubular Low Rider	3 Piece	£379.99	£329.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	250g	Tubular Low Rider	3 Piece	£379.99	£329.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	200g	Hybrid	3 Piece	£379.99	£329.99
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	225g	Tubular	3 Piece	£379.99	£329.99

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

Surfleader Ci4+ Reel	Power Aero 14000 XSB Reel	Fliegen 35SD Reel	Bull's Eye 9120 Surf Reel	Bull's Eye 9100 Surf Reel	Aero Technium MgS XSD - 14000 Reel
RRP £284.99 **£159**	RRP £399.99 **£339.99**	RRP £459.99 **£389.99**	RRP £419.99 **£339.99**	RRP £419.99 **£359.99**	RRP £699.99 **£589.99**

SeaAngler PICK OF THE MONTH

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

Aerlex 10000XSB Surf Casting Reel	Speedmaster 14000XSD Surf Reel	Ultegra XSD 5500 Surf Reel / Big Pit Reel	Ultegra 14000 XSD Surf Reel	Ultegra XSE 14000 Surf Reel	Ultegra Ci4+ 14000 XSC Surf Reel
RRP £114.99 **£89.99**	RRP £164.99 **£129.99**	RRP £179.99 **£139.99**	RRP £174.99 SOLD OUT	RRP £209.99 **£159.99**	RRP £299.99 SOLD OUT

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AKIOS BEACHCASTERS

AIRSPORT 420 CBR
2 PIECE • 112-224g/4-8oz
4.2m / 14ft
RRP £399.99 - See website

AIRSPEED SURF 435
MKII
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £379.99 £299

AIRPOWER SURF 435 RXP
MKII
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £439.99 £349

BORN TO RAISE HELL!
HELLRAZOR
4.2m RRP £169.99 £139

AIRTORQUE SURF 435
MKII
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £399.99 £299

AIRPOWER SURF 435 SRS
MKII
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £439.99 £349

AIRLYTE 355
• CONTINENTAL ROD • 2 PIECE
3.55m / 11ft 6in RRP £199.99 £169

CREED GP420
MKII
• 2 PIECE
13ft 10in RRP £449.99 £349

AIRPOWER SURF 420 GTR
MKII
CONTINENTAL ROD • 2 PIECE
4.2m / 14ft RRP £449.99 £359

AKIOS BEACHCASTERS

LIGHT YEARS AHEAD!
3 PIECE • HYBRID TIP • CONTINENTAL ROD •
MOMENTUM SLR
RRP NOW
14ft £429.99 £279
15ft £429.99 £279

A VERSATILE DUO... IN ONE!
ENDURANCE PRO RS2
SENSITIVE HYBRID TIP OR POWER TIP
4.26m RRP £269.99 £219

PHOSPHORESCENT GLOW TIP
UTOPIA 420
3 PIECE • CONTINENTAL ROD •
14ft - 4-8oz SOLD OUT

Glow-In-The-Dark Tip
FURY FX435 SRS POWER
• CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 14ft 6in
RRP £159.99 £145

FEEL the FURY
CONTINENTAL • 3 PIECE •
FURY FX420/450
RRP NOW
14ft £154.99 £129
15ft £159.99 £129

AKIOS

A forward thinking company based in the UK. Developed by anglers for anglers who demand new innovative and durable fishing tackle.

WHEN DISTANCE MATTERS
SHUTTLE
6 Models - from £189.99

NEW
NITRON F-15XP £219.99

S-LINE
5 Models
from £119.99

TOURNO
2 Models
from £199.99

DYNAMO
1 Model
£89.99

SHUTTLE 656 LST KURO
NEW
LIMITED STOCK
LEVEL UP YOUR GAME
Ideal for shore or in-shore boat fishing.
RRP £239.99
£199.99

AKIOS SURFCASTING REELS | SALTWATER LURE REELS

Fury FX8
Fixed spool reel
RRP £74.99 £59

Fireloop
Fixed spool reel
RRP £109.99 £89.99

Utopia CX8 / SX8
Fixed spool reel
CX8 - RRP £129.99 £89
SX8 - RRP £169.99 £125

Air Loop R8 / R10
Long cast fixed spool reel
R8 - RRP £146.99 £119
10 - RRP £154.99 £129

Spyro RS/GT
Spinning reel. 8 Models
RS from £74.99
GT from £39

Iron Spin 50
Fixed spool reel
RRP £169.99 £149.99

SONIK GRAVITY X5 HT

Unground carbon finish at rod joints makes it easier to take apart after use •
White hollow carbon tip for easy bite detection in poor light conditions •
Fuji corrosion control frames provide 7 times more corrosion resistance •
Shrink wrap on the lower handle to improve grip whilst casting •
Super lightweight high modulus carbon blank •
X5 multi-directional nanofibre tip section lay-up •
Fuji Alconite K Series guides •
Fuji DPS reel fitting •

'It's an absolutely fantastic shore rod
'The ultimate power is utterly immense and evident during the casting process'
Paul Fenech - Sea Angler review issue 566 Jan/Feb '19

RRP
A true all rounder... 14ft - 5-7oz - 2 Piece £329.99 £249.99
15ft 4in - 4-8oz - 3 Piece £349.99 £269.99

DAIWA BOAT RODS

Fishing rods suitable for boat trips

NEW
Saltist Boat Rods - 4 Models..... RRP £224.99-£249.99 from £199

Saltist Jigging/Popping Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models..... from £169

Tournament Boat Rods - 2 piece - 5 Models..... RRP £215 from £159

Kenzaki Super Boat Rods - 2, 3 & 4 piece - 13 Models
RRP £190 from £149

Team Daiwa X Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models..... RRP £170 from £129

DAIWA BOAT REELS

Fishing reels for sea fishing

4 MODELS
Sealine Slosh
Boat reel
from £109.99

5 MODELS
18 Saltist
Boat reel
from £239.99

3 MODELS
NEW
Saltist
Level wind reel. 20, 30 & 40
£229.99

20 MODELS
20 Saltiga LD
Single & 2 speed boat reels
from £369

9 MODELS
20 Saltiga (G)
Saltwater spinning reel
from £899

SHIMANO BOAT REELS

Charter Special
TR LD Special
1000/2000
SOLD OUT

TLD
LEVER DRAG
Single & 2 Speed
7 Models
from £129.99

TORIUM A HG
5 Models
from £179.99

TEKOTA A
6 Models
from £189.99

TYRNOS
Single & 2 Speed
6 Models
from £199.99

Snowbee SPECIAL OFFER

DEEP BLUE² BOAT RODS

The latest Deep Blue² models, have an even lighter, crisper action than their predecessors! Finished in the same lustrous deep blue, with subtle cross-whippings and decals and using lightweight graphite reel seats and chrome-plated stainless steel rings to prevent corrosion. Accurately rated to IGFA line classes and at 7ft 7ins they offer the ideal length for the serious boat angler and include a model to suit all fishing situations.

Butt Cap
Gimbal

				RRP	NOW
10201	7ft 7in	IGFA 8lbs	Class	Butt Cap..£139.99	£99
10209	7ft 7in	IGFA 8lbs	Class 'S-Flex'	Butt Cap..£139.99	£99
10202	7ft 7in	IGFA 12lbs	Class	Butt Cap..£139.99	£99
10205	7ft 7in	IGFA 12lbs	Class 'S-Flex'	Butt Cap..£139.99	£99
10203	7ft 7in	IGFA 20lbs	Class	Gimbal.....£149.99	£99
10204	7ft 7in	IGFA 30lbs	Class	Gimbal.....£149.99	£99

10201 - 8lb (4KG) CLASS
Ultra-sensitive inshorerod for bass, plaice, brill etc.

10209 - 8lb (4KG) CLASS 'S-FLEX'
Ultra-soft Korean S-Grip tip section, for supreme sensitivity.

1020 - 12lb (6KG) CLASS
For inshore angler fishing reefs,inshore drop-offs, reef pollack etc.

10202 - 12lb (6KG) CLASS 'S-FLEX'
Ultra-sensitive tip. For heavier bait fishing, turbot, black bream & livebait.

10203 - 20lb (10LB) CLASS
Best 'all-rounder', for inshore fishing, bass etc & the hardest fighting wreck pollack.

10204 - 30lb (15KG) CLASS
Ideal for fishing wrecks. Powerful rod for hauling conger & ling out of deep-water.

SHIMANO BOAT REELS

SpeedMaster LD II
6 Models
from £219.99

TALICA
5 Models
from £379.99

OCEA JIGGER
Silver - 2 Models
from £379.99

OCEA JIGGER F CUSTOM
2 Models
from £399

TIAGRA
4 Models
from £549.99

Snowbee

DEEP BLUE JIGGING RODS

Ultra-lightweight for all day fishing with high modulus carbon for a fast, powerful action for maximum movement to the jigs. Ideal length for jigging, long enough to work the jig effectively, but short enough to apply pressure to set the hook.

Jigging
Spinning

				RRP	NOW
10250	6ft 6in	30-100g	3 Piece	£134.99	£99
10251	6ft 6in	120g	3 Piece	£134.99	£99
10252		200g	3 Piece	£134.99	£115

DEEP BLUE SPINNING RODS

The latest thinking in rod design coupled with Snowbee technology to bring a range of lure spinning rods at the cutting edge of modern lure fishing design.

				RRP	NOW
10255	7ft 3in	2-15g	4 Piece	£134.99	£99
10256	8ft	10-30g	4 Piece	£149.99	£115
10257	8ft	20-50g	4 Piece	£154.99	£125
10258	9ft	10-30g	4 Piece	£157.99	£125
10259	9ft	20-50g	4 Piece	£159.99	£129

Okuma CAVALLA REELS

INSPIRED FISHING

CAVALLA
CAV-5NS RH
Single Speed Lever Drag Reel - £199

CAVALLA
CAV-5S RH
Single Speed Lever Drag Reel - £209

CAVALLA
CAV-5II RH
2 Speed Lever Drag Reel - £225

CAVALLA
CAV-5NII RH
Two-Speed Lever Drag Reel - £210

CAVALLA
CAV-12II RH
Two-Speed Lever Drag Reel - £299

LEFT HAND WIND
CAVALLA
CAV-5NIILX LH
Two-Speed Lever Drag Reel - £249

FLADEN

RESCUE SYSTEM
ONE PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

An affordable flotation suit that does not compromise on safety. With the same extreme buoyancy and thermal protection that you expect from all Fladen Rescue System Suits. An Updated model of Fladen's popular 845 suit, the 845XY features the same functions and quality that you're used to, but with a modern touch.

RRP £189.99 £159.99

Okuma MAKAIRA BIG GAME REELS

INSPIRED FISHING
BIG GAME REELS

MAKAIRA
MK-30 II
Big Game Reel
£449

MAKAIRA
MK-50 II
Big Game Reel
£499

MAKAIRA
MK-50W II
Big Game Reel
£569

MAKAIRA
MK-80 II
Big Game Reel
£895

FLADEN

ONE PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

The lightest suit on the market. Has the same extreme buoyancy and thermal protection as the other Fladen Rescue Systems

RRP £189.99
£149.99

SCANDIA TWO PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

The Bib and Brace has a built in buoyancy, and when worn with the Jacket exceeds the current Flotation Suit regulation requirements.

The new Bib & Brace trousers becomes a certified flotation suit only when worn with the Flotation Jacket

	RRP	NOW
Flotation Jacket	£137.99	£119.99
Flotation Bib & Brace	£119.99	£89.99

FISHING TACKLE BARGAIN BASEMENT

SEE WEBSITE

E+OE Prices subject to change. Goods subject to availability

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ORDER ONLINE www.uttings.co.uk Uttings

Vanquish FC

SHIMANO

Beyond Lightness

MGL SERIES

Pinnacle of lightweight engineering for finesse anglers seeking the ultimate in performance.

Equipped with the lightest Magnumlite Rotor. Perfect balance, lightness and low inertia rotation, produces exceptional performance and awareness.

1000, 2000, 2500, 3000, 4000, 5000

11 Models from **£399.99**

DAIWA

22 EXIST

Is this the BEST spinning reel ever made!

The future of Daiwa Spinning Reels is AIRDRIVE DESIGN. By reducing the weight of rotor, spool & bail assembly, a lighter rotation is achieved. The effortless rotation allows the angler to feel the true joy of trouble free function. This new chapter starts with 22 EXIST.

22 Exist PC LT 2500D G | 22 Exist LT 4000D G
22 Exist LT 2000D-P G | 22 Exist LT 5000D-C G
22 Exist LT 3000D G

RRP £850-£900 - 5 Models Available

from £599

Okuma MAKAIRA®

INSPIRED FISHING

Inspired by strength. Constructed from the finest, strongest materials available these are tough and durable spinning reels, especially for big gamen fish.

SPINNING REELS

Makaira MK-10000L
Spinning Reel - Left Hand
£599

Makaira MK-20000LS
Spinning Reel - Left Hand
£599

Makaira MK-30000LS
Spinning Reel - Left Hand
£649

Okuma TESORO

INSPIRED FISHING

SPINNING REELS

NEW

"The number one sales driver is the IPX-7 waterproof rating covering the body and the spool." Angling International

With hydro blocking technology for saltwater environments. 100% waterproof, strong, light weight aluminum body, specially reinforced high strength brass gears and a high output carbonite drag with Cal's drag grease on a full Dual Force Drag- (DFD) system, for tackling big game fish such as tuna and swordfish.

	RRP	NOW
8000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99	£269
10000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99	£269
14000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99	£269
18000PA SP Low Speed	£363.99	£299
20000PA SP Low Speed	£363.99	£299

Oversized, precision machine cut alloy main gear

Okuma SALINA

INSPIRED FISHING

SPINNING REELS

NEW

"This new breed of reels offers another option for elite anglers." Angling International

One of the best saltwater fishing reels on the market. Features Okuma's rigid Litecast construction, Dual Force Drag System for extreme stopping powe, proprietary High Density Gearing with corrosion resistant coating, high-speed gear ratio and customized aluminum handle.

	RRP	NOW
8000 Spinning	£195.99	£159.99
10000 Spinning	£198.99	£159.99
14000 Spinning	£198.99	£159.99
4000H Spin High-Speed	£183.99	£149.99
5000H Spin High-Speed	£183.99	£149.99
6000H Spin High-Speed	£187.99	£149.99

DAIWA

BASS LURE RODS

Fishing rods for sea bass fishing

Sandstorm
Bass Spinning Rods

- Premium Carbon Blanks
- Fixed Spool DPS Reel Seat
- Seaguide Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring
- Split EVA Grip Handle

	RRP	NOW
11ft 6in 28-84g	£135	£110

SALTIST - Bass Spinning Rods
- HVF High Volume Fibre
- X4S Technology

	RRP	NOW
8ft 10-35g	£185	£139
8ft 6in 10-35g	£190	£155
9ft 10-35g	£195	£159

SALTIST - Spinning Rods

	RRP	NOW
10ft 14-60g	£170	£149
11ft 6in 28-84g	£170	£149

Whisker Spin - Bass Spinning Rods

Designed to cover the multitude of fishing styles, across lure and bait with monofil or braid

	RRP	NOW
8ft 10-40g		SOLD OUT
9ft 15-50g		SOLD OUT
10ft 20-60g		SOLD OUT

SHIMANO LURE RODS

S.T.C

TRAVEL SPINNING RODS

A travel rod with a transport length of just 58cm, this is a rod you can pack in your suitcase, car, backpack or wherever you want to store it!

		RRP	NOW
9ft	15-40g 5 Piece	£134.99	£99
9ft	20-60g 5 Piece	£149.99	£119
10ft	20-60g 5 Piece	£139.99	£119
2.4/2.7m	3-14g 6 Piece Multi Length	£139.99	£110
2.4/2.7m	15-40g 6 Piece Multi Length	£144.99	£115
2.7/3m	20-60g 6 Piece Multi Length	£159.99	£129

LUNAMIS BASS RODS

				RRP	NOW
8ft 6in	6-25g, 7-35g	2 Piece		£329.99	
9ft	5-21g, 6-25g	2 Piece		£329.99	
9ft 6in	7-35g, 10-45g	2 Piece		£349.99	

MOON SHOT SPINNING INSHORE BASS RODS

				RRP	NOW
8ft 6in	Plug 6-32g	Jig 38g	2 Piece	£164.99	£139.99
9ft	Plug 6-32g	Jig 38g	2 Piece	£164.99	£144.99
9ft 6in	Plug 8-42g	Jig 50g	2 Piece	£169.99	£149.99
9ft 6in	Plug 10-52g	Jig 60g	2 Piece	£169.99	£149.99

DAIWA

SALTWATER LURE REELS

BG
Fixed Spool Reels
7 Models
from £99

BG MAGSEALED
Spinning Reels
7 Models
from £149

20 BG MQ
Fixed Spool Reels
10 Models
from £169

20 SALTIGA (G)
Fixed Spool Reels
9 Models
from £899

• 5 Models
22 EXIST
Is this the BEST spinning reel ever made!
RRP £850-£900
from £599

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

MIRAVEL 10 MODELS	STRADIC FM 16 MODELS	20 STRADIC SW NEW 10 MODELS
from £89	from £179.99	4000-14000 from £199.99
SPHEROS SW 3 MODELS SOLD OUT	SPHEROS SW-A 8 MODELS from £135	ULTEGRA FC 10 MODELS from £99.99
		SARAGOSA SW-A 8 MODELS from £199.99

DAIWA

KENZAKI

"Nothing short of superb"
Sea Angler Review, June 2019

Read the review by **DAVID BARHAM** on our website

Super Kenzaki FS (Fixed Spool) Boat Rod
6-12lb, 6-15lb, 12-20lb, 15-25lb, 20-30lb or 30-50lb
7', 7'6" or 8'
RRP £199 **£149**

BG Magsealed Spinning Reel
7 Models - RRP £195-£245 from **£149**

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

VANFORD FA NEW 19 MODELS	VANQUISH FC 11 MODELS	STELLA FK 14 MODELS
from £249.99	from £399.99	from £539.99
TWIN POWER FE NEW 10 MODELS	TWIN POWER XD 6 MODELS	TWIN POWER SW-C 11 MODELS
from £389.99	from £349.99	from £379.99
		STELLA SW-C 14 MODELS from £699.99

DOUGLAS SKY G

S6904 SALTWATER FLY ROD

Yellowstone Angler's WINNER of BEST 9ft weight 6 rod

Altogether, you'll find the Douglas SKY G Fly Rod Series offers superb dampening and recovery, near-effortless casting, accuracy, and outstanding durability. Innovative top-of-the-line components include: REC Titanium Cerecoil stripper guides with zirconia inserts, REC Titanium recoil guides, AAAA flor grade cork, a skeletonized aluminum reel seat, double uplocking rings with nylon bushings, and burled blackwood inserts. Includes a plush rod sock and aluminum tube.

- Length: 9'0ft
- Line Weight: 6
- Action: Fast
- Sections: 4
- Weight: 93gram

9ft: #6 Saltwater **£849.99**

DOUGLAS SKY G

S8904 SALTWATER FLY ROD

Altogether, you'll find the Douglas SKY G Fly Rod Series offers superb dampening and recovery, near-effortless casting, accuracy, and outstanding durability. Innovative top-of-the-line components include: REC Titanium Cerecoil stripper guides with zirconia inserts, REC Titanium recoil guides, AAAA flor grade cork, a skeletonized aluminum reel seat, double uplocking rings with nylon bushings, and burled blackwood inserts. Includes a plush rod sock and aluminum tube.

8wt Shootout done by FIELD & STREAM **WINNER** DOUGLAS SKY G 8904 9ft #8

- Length: 9'0ft
- Line Weight: 8
- Action: Fast
- Sections: 4
- Weight: 102gram
- Saltwater friendly hard wear

9ft: #8 Saltwater **£849.99**
Also available in #7 #9 #10

G·Loomis SALTWATER FLY

UK APPOINTED DEALER

ASQUITH

Built on Shimano's proprietary Spiral X platform, the Asquith boasts superb power transfer from tip to hand, quick recovery, and increased sensitivity.

ASQ 890	9ft	#7 #8	4 Pce..SOLD OUT
ASQ 1090	9ft	#9 #10	4 Pce..SOLD OUT
ASQ 1290	9ft	#11 #12	4 Pce..SOLD OUT

NRX+

Empowers anglers with confidence-boosting control in less-than-ideal situations.

NRX+ S 790 / 890 / 990	9ft	#7 #8 #9	4 Piece..£799.99
NRX+ S 1090	9ft	#10	4 Piece..£849.99
NRX+ S 1290	9ft	#12	4 Piece..£899.99
NRX+ 10810-2	8ft 10"	#9	2 Piece..£749.99
NRX+ 10810-2	8ft 10"	#10	2 Piece..£749.99
NRX+ 12810-2	8ft 10"	#12	2 Piece..£749.99

G·Loomis SALTWATER FLY RODS

UK APPOINTED DEALER

MULTI TAPER

IMX-PRO S 12 SALTWATER FLY RODS

Rolled for pumped performance in salty environments, IMX-PRO V2S actions are tuned for utility in three specific areas: improved tracking in the wind, lifting generous lengths of line before a re-cast, and fish fighting control. G.Loomis engineers designed these versatile actions with gobs of power through the bottom half of the rod but, most uniquely, developed a slightly tighter tip to minimize tailing loops and improve tracking and line pick-up. A proprietary blend of technologies - Conduit Core and GL7 resin system - provides surplus strength and impact resistance without the extra weight, creating a blank that allows anglers to stay frosty when a "send" becomes a "bend."

9ft #6	4 Piece	£399.99	
9ft #7	4 Piece	£399.99	9ft #10 4 Piece £399.99
9ft #8	4 Piece	£399.99	9ft #11 4 Piece £399.99
9ft #9	4 Piece	£399.99	9ft #12 4 Piece £399.99

Snowbee SALTWATER RODS & REELS

SPECTRE RMX SALTWATER 4PCE
With the ever increasing popularity of Saltwater Bass, Bonefish, Carp & Pike fly fishing, the "Saltwater Predator" model is top of the Spectre range.
RRP £259 **SOLD OUT**

PRESTIGE G-XS SW SALTWATER
The most powerful in the saltwater series, yet still deceptively light and easy to cast.
9ft #7 - 4 Piece
RRP £559 **£299**
Also available in #8 & #10

XS FLY REELS
The first choice for the best of saltwater Bonefish, Jacks, Permit and smaller Tarpon, or Bass & Pollock.
#7/9 #9/11 - **from £199**

SPECTRE FLY REELS
Ultra-lightweight, precision CNC machined aluminium reels for a better rod/reel balance
#9/10 #10/11
SOLD OUT

Sector SALTWATER FLY RODS

Scott Fly Rod Company introduces the all new Sector series of high performance, hand crafted saltwater fly rods.

Sector rods advance on Scott's award- winning Meridian series to bring you a new level of performance and reliability in saltwater fly rods.

8ft 4in	#10 #13 #15	3 Piece
8ft 4in	#6 #8	4 Piece
8ft 10in	#7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12	2 Piece
9ft	#6 #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12	4 Piece

IFTD WINNER

£899

Sector 'NZ SPECIAL'

The Sector New Zealand Special has been developed specifically for chucking everything required to catch trout in gin-clear water and crammed conditions - whether it be nymph rigs, big dry flies - or even streamers. A tireless allrounder!
9ft #6 4 Piece **£799**

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WESTIN

W3 SEABASS 2nd GENERATION

The W3 SeaBass 2nd is a super-fast and long-casting powerhouse that meets the demands of the modern sea bass angler. These rods are packed with power, and due to the premium Torayca® carbon fibers, you still get a true lightweight feeling when fishing, fish, and detecting even the mostcautious bites. Use it from the bank or boat, the W3 SeaBass 2nd will get the job done no matter the situation.

Reel Seat: VSS
D-Ring Hook Keeper
Guides: LTS ring guides
Handle: Premium EVA handle
Reinforced with 1k woven carbon
Blank: Torayca® High Performance Carbon blank

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

W3 Seabass 2nd generation 2 section with cloth bag

			RRP	NOW
8ft 4in	(250cm)	12.42g	£149	**£129.99**
9ft 1in	(273cm)	12.42g	£159	**£139.99**
10ft	(300cm)	12.42g	£169	**£139.99**

FAVORITE BLACK SWAN Saltwater Lure Rods

Ridiculous amount of rod for the money, wand!

What is a wand in terms of a lure fishing rod? My definition would have to be this exact rod. Weighing an amazing 103g, if you like a lightweight lure rod which can genuinely thrash something like the 35g Savage Gear Surf Seeker as hard as you can hit it, then this is a rod to consider. It's bloody incredible how effortless this thing is. I really enjoy fishing with sub-9' lure rods if they sit so easily in my hands like this Favorite Black Swan 852MH 8'5" 10-36g does.

Wanna go a bit lighter again? The Favorite Black Swan 852M 8'5" 6-24g lure rod is something else, and it's the lightest lure rod I have ever fished with.

Favorite Black Swan Lure Rod 2.57m (8ft 5in) 6-24g.....£259.99
Favorite Black Swan Lure Rod 2.57m (8ft 5in) 10-36g.....£269.99
Favorite Black Swan Lure Rod 2.57m (8ft 5in) 16-56g.....£299.99

Read the full review by Henry Gilbey on our website

Henry Gilbey

Major Craft

2 PIECE FIRSTCAST ROD 9FT 10-30g

SALTWATER BASS LURE ROD

SPECIAL OFFER

The First Cast range combines Major Craft's cutting-edge technology and extensive experience to offer beginner anglers a top-tier fishing rod at an affordable price. Whether you're new to fishing or a seasoned enthusiast, a First Cast rod promises a comfortable experience, allowing you to fully enjoy the thrill of lure fishing.

Fuji guides
Fuji reel seat
Lightweight EVA grips

SAVE OVER £60

RRP £129.99
NOW £69

SAVAGE GEAR

LURE FISHING NETS

Bottle and Net Clip
Strong ABS quick clip. L: 14.5cm W: 20g - **£4.99**

Rubber Mesh

Pro Finezze Floating Landing Nets
The ideal Bass net for fishing off the rocks or on the beach - designed for lure fishing and fish care - great for Catch and Release.

	RRP	NOW
Medium	£24.99	**£22.99**
Large	£31.99	**£28.99**

Full Frame Net 120-200cm
Strong landing net, for landing big predator fish.

	RRP	NOW
XL	£94.99	**£79.99**

Pro Folding Telescopic Net
Extra large rubber mesh net bag, great for lure fishing & fish care

	RRP	NOW
L	£79.99	**£69.99**
XL	£89.99	**£79.99**

Pro Foldable Landing Net
Strong, lightweight folding net with rubber mesh bag

	RRP	NOW
L	£50.99	**£44.99**
XL	£54.99	**£49.99**

Full Frame Landing Net
Super strong landing net, designed to land big predator fish.

	RRP	NOW
L	£64.99	**£59.99**

SAVAGE GEAR

NEW BAITCASTING REELS FOR 2024

SG6
Pure power in a compact package.
SG6 250 BC LH - 6.6:1....**£119.99**
SG6 250 BC LH - 8.8:1....**£119.99**
SG6 250 BC RH - 8.8:1....**£129.99**
SG6 300 BC LH - 5.6:1....**£149.99**
SG6 300 BC RH - 5.6:1....**£149.99**
SG6 300 BC LH - 7.3:1....**£149.99**

SG8
Power, style, performance and a - the SG8 series of baitcasting reels has it all.
SG8 250 BC LH - 6.6:1....**£154.99**
SG8 250 BC LH - 8.8:1....**£154.99**
SG8 250 BC LH - 5.6:1....**£199.99**
SG8 250 BC LH - 7.3:1....**£199.99**

SG10
Representing the very best of Savage Gear technology and innovation, and loaded with smart ideas to help you achieve your angling goals.
SG10 250 BC LH - 8.8:1....**£199.99**
SG10 250 BC LH - 7.3:1....**£239.99**

SAVAGE GEAR

LURE BOXES AND WALLETS SELECTION NEW

Rollup Pouch £14.99

Rig & Lure Flip Wallet £15.99

Zipper Wallet 1 £16.99

Lurebox 2A 16.1x9.1x3.1cm - **£5.99**

Flip Wallet Rig & Lure Bags - 8 Pack - £7.99

Zipper Wallet 2 £15.99

Lure Boxes - 4 Sizes from £2.99

Lurebox 3A 18.6x10.3x3.4cm - **£6.99**

2 SIDED WASHABLE LUREBOXES
Keep your hard lures organised with these strong, durable, two-sided washable lure boxes. Featuring sturdy, smooth hinges & tight-fit lids. Drainage holes help keep the inside dry & the double- sided design is ideal for large hard lures with treble hooks.

Recommended by *Henry Gilbey*

Short 20.5x17x4.8cm.....**£8.99**
Long 20.5x17x4.8cm.....**£9.99**
Large 29.5x20.5x6.2cm..**£15.99**

SAVAGE GEAR

LURE BAGS FOR 2024

Specialist Rucksavck 23L
RRP £84.99 **£74.99**

Specialist Lure Bags

	RRP	NOW
M	£79.99	**£69.99**
L	£89.99	**£79.99**

Specialist Sling Bag 8L
RRP £44.99 **£39.99**

Specialist Shoulder Lure Bag - 16L
RRP £59.99 **£54.99**

Specialist Soft Lure Bag 10L
RRP £55.99 **£49.99**

System Box Bag

	RRP	NOW
Small	£46.99	**£41.99**
Medium	£64.99	**£59.99**
Large	£84.99	**£74.99**
X Large	£99.99	**£84.99**

System Caryall

	RRP	NOW
Medium	£49.99	**£44.99**
Large	£54.99	**£49.99**
X Large	£64.99	**£59.99**

SAVAGE GEAR

Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics.
Read his blog on our website

Mads and Henry have done an incredible job, not just creating the rods but crafting an entire range of product positioned specifically for the UK and Ireland's army of bass anglers.
Richard Taylor, boss of Svensden

SANDEEL V2 SINKING LURES
Designed by Henry Gilby

12cm	22g	2+1.....**£8.99**
14cm	33g	2+1.....**£8.99**
15.5cm	46g	2+1.....**£8.99**
17.5cm	65g	2+1.....**£8.99**
11.5cm	22g	2+1 Weedless..**£7.99**
13cm	31g	2+1 Weedless..**£8.99**

6 Colour Options

SANDEEL PENCIL SW SINKING LURES
Shallow Water version

9cm	13g	.....**£7.99**
12.5cm	19g	.....**£8.99**
15cm	30g	.....**£10.99**

5 Colour Options

8 Colour Options

SANDEEL PENCIL SINKING LURES
Supplied with both a single and a treble hook.

9cm	13g	.....**£6.99**
12.5cm	19g	.....**£9.99**

SAVAGE GEAR — BASS LURES

Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics. - Read his blog on our website

See the Henry Gilby video on how to use them - it's on out site

SUPERB — SAVAGE GEAR SEEKER ISP — #1 SELLER

Black Pearl | *Fluo/green/yellow* | *Fluo/red/black*

12g / 16g / 23g / 28g
6.8cm / 8.7cm / 9.8cm,
10cm - **Only £4.89**

Green Silver | *White Pearl*

7 Colours

Gravity Stick Mini Kit
12cm 13g - 7 Colours - **£8.99**

Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g Sinking
RRP £8.49 **£5.49**

Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10.5cm 35g Sinking
RRP £8.99 **£5.99**

Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g
RRP £9.49 **£6.25**

Bullet Mullet Floating Lures

10cm - 17.3g	**£8.99**
11cm - 23.5g	**£9.99**

ACCESSORIES

Rattle & Spike Kit 1.5g 6+6pce - RRP £9.49 **£7.99**

#6/0 Weedless Hooks 6pce - RRP £7.49 **£5.99**
3g - 4pce - RRP £8.49 **£6.99**

WESTIN

SEABASS ACCESSORIES

W6 8 Braided Line 135m - **from £24.99**

W10 13 Coastal Braided Line - 150m - £46.99

W3 CR Floating Landing Nets from £24.99

W3 CR Adjustable Landing Net from £29.99

W3 Street Sling Medium - £29.99

W3 Leg Bag Medium - £29.99

W6 Roll-Top Backpack 25L - £69.99

W6 Roll-Top Backpack 40L - £79.99

W6 Dry Pouch 23x13cm - **£10.99**

W3 Quick Bag Small - £44.99

W3 Lure Loader Small - £59.99

W6 Wading Backpack £124.99

W6 Boat Lurebag Large - £134.99

W3 Street Bag Pro Medium - £54.99

W3 Lure Loader Large - £59.99

W6 Roll-Top Duffelbag Large - £109.99

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Interview by Dave Lewis

LIVING THE DREAM

Ever wondered whether you could make a career as a professional fishing guide? Jakob Oliw explains how he turned his dream into reality, and provides advice for anyone wanting to do the same

Where and when did you start fishing, and how old were you?

I have been fishing as long as I have been able to hold a fishing rod. It was my father, a lifelong fisherman, and my grandparents who started me on my journey. They used to take me fishing to the lakes and on the Swedish coast, catching perch, roach and bream. As I grew older I started fishing on my own. I used to take a foldable rod to school and used lunchtime and after school hours to explore the streams and lakes nearby. As my ambition and interest grew I started looking further afield for perch and pike in the larger lakes, and in the archipelago of Stockholm
.

When did you first decide that you would like to become a full-time fishing guide?

The dream of being a full-time guide has been there since I first found out that it was a legitimate job; I was maybe seven or eight-years-old. For a while I'm sure I thought any job where I could fish at work was good enough! I have always loved showing and telling other people about nature, and especially about fish and fishing.

I think everyone that loves fishing has at some point dreamed of becoming a fishing guide. That said, I was often told by caring family and friends that becoming a fishing guide is not going to happen, and that it was not a 'real job'. During my years at school I had a summer job in the local fishing and boating store. The town I lived in was full of tourists during the summer, and those were the majority of our customers. Almost every day people asked if there were any guides to be hired in the town, and every day I had to say that there were none. But it was only after I was asked if I was willing to take people out on trips for mackerel and sea trout five times in the same day that I actually took someone fishing after work. I only earned pocket money, but it breathed new life into the dream of one day guiding for real.

Tell me about the first time you took paying clients fishing. How was the trip and what did you catch?

When I was 15 I got a summer job with the Swedish Sportfishing Organisation, working as a fishing guide for the activities for children they arranged every year. The children were aged 4-12, and we were fishing in an urban park inside Stockholm. We caught a steady stream of roach, rudd and the occasional bream. One highlight of the day was a 4lb bream that was caught by a small girl. I remember the thrill of being paid for my 'expertise' in fishing.

When you had decided to become a guide, how did you set about achieving this goal?

When I finished school the dream was still alive, but I didn't really see a way forward. I started sending job applications to fish farms in Norway and realised that I had nothing to lose by writing some applications to fishing camps as well. After many emails, and very few replies, I got hold of Marcus Ahlund, who runs Explore the Arctic. He said that if I had all the certifications I was welcome to have an interview. I found out that my Swedish certificates were not transferable and decided I would just take all the necessary courses and go to the interview. I quit my job, took the internet-based courses, then travelled to Norway, a 22-hour drive.

The location blew me away. I had been in Norway less than 24 hours when I caught my first 10lb cod from shore. Marcus and the staff of Lauklines, where Explore The Arctic is based, welcomed me warmly, so when I got an offer I did not hesitate. I have always been a social person and I have worked in customer service; guiding involves a lot of customer service. You may be the best fisherman in the world, but if you can't handle people you won't do well as a guide.

Have you had many trips yet when your clients have struggled to catch fish? What did you do; were you able to turn the day around?

Of course I have had slow days when clients have really struggled to catch fish, but it really depends on the expectations of the group. Personally, I won't consider it a good day if we haven't caught at least five halibut and a cod over 20lb; however, I have had guests that say it was an extremely good trip when all we caught was five mackerel!

When I have a group that has been to Norway before and know what to expect, some days have been really hard. Halibut fishing especially can be tough. I always make a Plan B, usually to target another species that I know has been good recently. For example, we might move and fish some shallow kelp marks with light gear for the kelp cod. Even though the guests have requested halibut fishing the whole day, and swear they have the patience for it, this change with some easy, quick action has saved many trips.

What has been the highpoint of your guiding so far?

My highpoint so far must have been in my first year. A group arrived that have fished this area for over 20 years, mostly fishing the same small area using small soft plastics and light rod casting for halibut.

After a few days doing this with them I felt that I was contributing very little. They knew the area as well as I did, and really needed no help from me. I suggested we go

to a new area I had discovered for big coalfish and pollock, and the day that followed I will never forget. We arrived and caught some medium size fish around 10lb before low tide, but the second the current dropped we stopped catching fish. I told them as soon as the current started the fish would eat again, and like clockwork after one hour of barely drifting on the flat sea, suddenly the birds were diving some distance away. We quickly drove there and first cast one of the guys hooked into a 20lb coalfish.

For four hours we had fish nearly every cast, double triple and even quadruple hookups. At the end of the day we counted 40 fish over the magical 20lb mark, and one really big one over 30lb that we actually had to drive after to avoid getting spooled! The best part for me was not the fish, but the feeling that I had provided a new experience to people who have been fishing here since I was a small child.

What has been the low point of your guiding so far?

It's hard to pinpoint the low point of my career, though it's more generally those days when nothing cooperates. Even during summer we get times of bad weather and when a group gets unlucky and have to go out anyway, we sometimes struggle. Even when we can't choose where we go I have to provide fish according to the guests' expectations. It can get stressful, especially if we are stuck in the fjord and the guests expect big fish to jump in the boat, while at the same time there's a storm and raining like crazy. I can't really say I enjoy days like that too much!

What levels of skill and experience do most of your clients have?

The skill level in the boat varies drastically. Some who come have been fishing in Norway for many years and don't need any help with the gear and techniques. Others have lots of sea fishing experience elsewhere but need a hand with the specific lures and methods we use. Somedays I just need to put them on the fish and they do the rest. Other days I need to show which end to hold the rod. I spend a fair amount of time untangling lines, pulling lures free from snags and unhooking fish.

What are the advantages in booking the services of a guide like yourself?

Depending on your own skill, I would say you benefit in different ways. If you are fairly used to fishing in open sea environments and perhaps have fished in Norway before it is mainly convenience, safety and the time you gain actually fishing. Hiring a guide is convenient in many ways. For example we offer an all inclusive option when you book with us. Any clothing you need is included, as is all the fishing gear. Tackle is expensive and heavy, and this saves money and space in your luggage as you don't need to bring your own flotation suit and rods with you. During and after the trip we take care of everything. We clean the boat, refuel and even fillet the fish if that is what you want. We know our area well, and most importantly know the weather here too. We know which wind direction works where, and when it's better to stay home. The weather up here can be treacherous and occasionally we do get surprised by sudden storms, but we know where to shelter.

Another reason to book a guide is to save time. When you go to a new area you can spend most of the trip searching for the fish, and then maybe only the end of the stay is actually productive. With a guide you are investing years and countless hours on the water in that exact area. We know when, how and where the fish will be, simply because we know where they were this time last year and where they were yesterday.

If you want to catch specific species such as wolffish, plaice and redfish these are very localised, and can be tricky to find and catch. A good guide will know spots for most species of fish.

Certainly if you have very little experience a guide can make all the difference as all of the gear is included and you have access to a teacher the whole trip. As a result not only will you likely catch more fish with a guide, but you can learn about fishing at the same time. After a week with a guide you will probably learn more about the fishing than you would on many trips without one. Everything from knots, lures, tides and currents and, of course, when and where to catch fish on your own.

Safety is another consideration, especially if you don't own a boat yourself. We are based in northern Norway where the environment is harsh and rocky. You'll often fish a long way from help, and going out on your own without any previous experience up here can get ugly. Every year fishermen get in trouble in our water, and not all survive.

Do you have any advice for anyone considering doing this?

Please take some time to think about what you want to get out of the trip. Contact the guide well in advance of your booking and ask about the best time of the season to choose. It is also important to choose a certified company who has the necessary certifications and safety equipment in place. When you offer guided fishing trips in Norway there are clear and specific rules regarding the approvals and certificates required for boats and skippers/guides. Before you book, ask if the guide and the boat have these. If the answer is no, you should go somewhere else. It's no fun being stuck offshore with a guide who doesn't know what to do, with no radio or safety equipment in an emergency. There are many who operate illegal fishing guiding services in Norway. When I started working as a guide in Norway a couple of years ago there were only about 10 boats approved for guided fishing trips.

Do you guide throughout the entire year in Norway?

Our boat fishing season starts in April and ends in October, before the winter storms and darkness sets in. Then follows the quiet month November, before the winter tourists start to arrive in December. People travel here from all over the world to see the Northern Lights and experience a true arctic winter. During the winter season I do day trips to go ice fishing, watch Northern Light and sightseeing road trips. During the coldest period all the lakes are frozen with up to three feet of ice, and even some of the fjords freeze. When the fjord ice is thick we sometimes give guests the rare treat of salt water ice fishing, where we have caught fish over 20lb.

Do you have plans to guide elsewhere in the world?

I have no real plans about guiding elsewhere, but I dream of maybe working as a guide in the tropics chasing big fish, where the sun does not disappear for two months each year. But that is far away and I will simply see where life takes me, and what opportunities show themselves.

Do you have any advice to offer anyone reading this who thinks that they might like to become a guide?

Being a guide is not all about fishing. What it really boils down to is customer service. It's extremely social work, and you need to be able to handle any kind of person, sometimes under very stressful situations. And on days when you would rather stay inside and not freeze your fingers off in horizontal snow, you have to face it all with a smile. Get a good education: I studied nature guiding as part of my education and I learned a lot there. You can, of course, become a brilliant guide without any formal education. It is very helpful to talk to people who have experience of the work you want to do. Fish with new people, take beginners fishing and try to help them catch fish. If you only feel frustrated you may need more training before going pro. Make sure you have the necessary certification for what you want to do in the country or place you want to work. If you are starting your own business, find a niche where people are interested in being guided. And if you are trying in an already established market, as I did, just send those emails; the worst they can say is no! ■

To book a guided fishing trip with Jakob at Explore The Arctic visit www.explorethearctic.no

Words and photography by TIM MACPHERSON

KING OF THE FILIPINO FLUTTER

Tim Macpherson gets a lesson in slow pitch jigging from Torquay-based charter skipper, and SPJ expert, Matt Forrester and finds out all about his exclusive brand of jigs and lures

Slow jigging has never been so popular; it's a method that's taken off all over the world, but in particular it has gained a lot of advocates in the UK sea angling scene. It's a development of the well-established method of pirking on wrecks and reefs for bass, pollack, cod and other predatory species. One skipper who is taking it to a new level is Matt Forrester who runs his charter boat Silver Halo from Torquay. He uses it almost exclusively now and has established crews of anglers who he works with regularly. He has developed the technique over the years and has now got his own brand of jigs which he supplies to his customers and anglers all over the UK and beyond.

One of the beauties of angling is you never stop learning new ways to improve your skills, so I was excited to get an invitation to learn the art and try out Matt's jigs. Matt honed his own skillset over the last 10 years and when fishing in the Philippines a couple of years ago.

"It can take many trips to get the feel of it. It's great fun but it's also the sum of many parts, so it's important to learn quickly. However, the finer stuff takes a bit more time and experience. Having other slow jigging anglers with you and a knowledgeable skipper are all important in learning more quickly. While travelling in the Philippines I reached out to local anglers who used slow pitch jigging and they were happy to help, not only for providing contacts but were keen to fish with me.

"It helped me adjust my own skills to suit the much deeper waters and more varied species found there. I fished inshore waters at depths of up to 360m, although most fishing took place in around 150 to 250m and with jigs from 150g to 300g. This was a real learning experience, as well as hard work; much of it can be translated back to our fishing in the UK."

In UK waters we really only fish in depths of up to 100m so slow jigging can be a lot easier physically, however, strong tides and wind can make things difficult – as we found out on my trip from Torquay.

For my part I have mostly used sidewinders or similar lures when targeting bass and pollack on the wrecks near where I fish regularly in the Eastern Channel.

Using this traditional drop and slow draw method can be very effective, but only when the conditions are near perfect. However, after my day out with Matt learning more about slow jigging I can see it is actually more versatile and, when done correctly, could potentially be even more effective when the conditions are tough.

THE TECHNIQUE

Before we set sail from port, Matt explained in detail how the technique works and some of the subtleties involved. It's really not just about dropping the jig and moving it up and down in the water column. It is about making sure you have rod, reel and, crucially, line balanced properly and then how to use this as the conditions change.

The key is to get the best jig action possible and to provide this where the fish can see it. To achieve that as often as possible can be a challenge, so there then becomes a need to fine tune everything.

WHY BRAID IS IMPORTANT

Line is really important because when fishing at depth the water rubs against the surface of the braid along its length, from the surface right down to the leader connected to the jig. This contact, and pressure of the tide, causes drag that can slow the fall of the jig, which can then also hold the top of the jig high, push the jig away from the boat, and generally mess with its 'free-falling' fishing action. The jig needs to fall freely and, ideally, it should be unrestricted. Part of achieving this is by keeping the line from your rod tip down to the jig as close to vertical as possible. Ultra-thin braid is key to reducing the profile of the line and one of the braids Matt uses is Gosen X8 Jigging; it's one of the best Japanese jigging braids: super smooth and has excellent strength to diameter ratio.

When pitching the rod up you want the jig to respond and flick upwards through the water. When it slows you want it to achieve an 'unweighted' position - typically lying on its side. This hanging, relaxed position then allows the best action on the free fall. If the drag loading on the line – caused by the water and tide – is too high it can pull the braid and tilt the jig away from the best position, ruining its unrestricted free fall.

A dedicated braid really helps improve this situation as it should be smooth and super fine; it'll then cut through the water more effectively, reducing the drag and helping the line stay vertical longer so the jig falls more freely. Matt recommends using braid with colour coded depth marking so you can understand the location of your jig in the water column. If you hook a fish at a certain depth it's easier to replicate that depth on the next pass and avoid hitting snags.

The braid can also work as a bite indicator. As you let the jig fall after a pitch, watch your braid on the surface – if a fish takes the jig as it flutters down it can either take up the slack

SILVER HALO CHARTERS

Silver Halo is a 7.9m Cheetah Marine catamaran, built in 2018 to the highest standards and a bespoke design. Coded for eight people including crew the boat is a mix of practicality and versatility which provides plenty of deck space (3.5m x 2.6m) but will comfortably take four anglers taking into account the need for comfortable angling space. and allowing for a more guided experience. Matt takes small groups of up to four anglers and can provide all the correct gear for either slow pitch jigging or lure fishing. www.silverhalocharters.co.uk

and pull tight more quickly, or the braid may lie on the surface as the fish takes the weight of the jig off the line, in effect a slack line bite. When this happens, it's crucial to reel into it quickly to set the hook. The rods are too short and soft to set the hooks on their own.

PITCHING THE ROD

After pitching the rod up, as the jig 'hangs' and then starts to fall again, watch your braid on the water's surface, just below your rod tip. Try and avoid slowing the falling jig with your rod. If you slow the jig down, you're effectively loading the top of it again (in a similar way to the water's drag on the braid) and it will not slide or flutter correctly, dropping back and forth and looking really boring to any fish! Always lower the rod slightly faster than the jig takes the line back, but be aware, avoid allowing the braid to blow back on to the top of your rod! Tip wraps are unwanted and can be costly!

OFFSET SPIRAL ROD RINGS

The rods Matt uses have offset rings. At first, I thought this was just an accident of connecting the two rod sections together until I realised the rods we were using were one piece. Using a spiral wrapped rod can help eliminate snagging the braid on an eye. However, it's still a good idea to move your rod slightly to the side of the braid as it falls back onto the water. As you get more experienced you can time the rod lowering just a fraction faster than the falling jig; you'll stay closer to connection and have less chance of rod tangles. When your jig falls freely, you'll get the best action and in turn get connected to more fish!

THE JIGGING ROD

There are a lot of jigging rods available now, not all have the correct action or feel. Usually, they're lightweight rods of around six to seven foot which are designed to provide the correct pitch and flick of the jig. It's this action which helps it into free fall. It's important that the power rating of the rod is based on the jig you're using. In turn, the jig you choose on the day should suit the conditions, depth and current. Remember it's not just about the weight of the jig but the profile, this can affect rod loading and the amount of drag in the water.

The various rod powers or ratings, and the way each of them imparts its power and 'action' to your various jigs, is important to understand. Look at the ratings or weights on both the jig and the rod and test your jigs to see how the rod works them close to the boat (at about two to three metres below the surface). Just about every rod and jig has a different action and jigs need to be worked accordingly. Remember, this action beside the boat will always be reduced a bit at greater depth, it will become slightly slower and less aggressive. This is due to the braid drag and any arcing with the tide. The addition of these slight loads increases with more depth and current and they reduce some of the rod's power, in effect making it slower and a bit harder to work. When this happens it's time to grab the next rod up!

JIG WEIGHTS

The fine-tuning of jig selection is done at sea and on the day. The first drift will tell you a lot and you can adjust accordingly. Generally, for UK waters, Matt recommends jigs from about 60g to 120g when inshore and 100g to 250g when offshore. Conditions and tide will determine what you go for on the day but your choice of set-up and rod need to start in the middle of these ranges. If you use a lighter rod, actions will be slowed with heavier jigs; some jigs prefer this. If you use a heavier, more powerful, rod the actions will be faster but you will also get better usage when conditions are more challenging.

SLOW JIGGING REELS

The reel is the tiny powerhouse used to hold and retrieve line while jigging and for bringing your fish up to the boat, but there is also a bit more to it. A good quality small, well balanced, overhead reel is best and ideally with a good rate of retrieve. A strong and smooth drag is certainly important but it really needs a nice powerful retrieve. This is important because the rod is just too light and cannot be used to pump and lift the fish up, remember to just keep the rod low and use the reel smoothly like a winch. Having a full spool also helps increase the retrieve rate and allows for better working of the jig up through the water column. Just one turn can retrieve close to a metre of line.

Matt was using Ocea jigging reels – these are high quality tools which are not cheap. However, when you are taking such care over the gear you are using to maximise the technique's success rates, then it's worth the investment. Remember to fish with one hand cupping the rod and reel and one hand on the reel handle. Although we do strike, it's not enough on its own as the rod is so soft and short. It's winding super-fast into a fish that tightens everything up and helps set the hooks. It's also worth noting that there's often very little pressure between the fish and the hooks at the time of the take, this is because the fish is hitting the jig as it falls. It may hook itself, but time is of the essence, keep your hand on the handle, get winding and lift your rod firmly and make sure!

THE TECHNIQUE

The timing of the pitch, fall of the jig and the drop, are all crucial. Use your sonar and plotter to locate and mark what could be hotspots over the feature or wreck. You need to know where the fish are and the more time with your jig spent in the 'strike zone' with your line vertical means more fish to the

JOKER JIGS AND LURES

Matt has now developed his own exclusive range of jigs – the Joker Slow Pitch Jigs – which he has created to deliver the best flutter action in the water. He has a range of options on his website www.jokerjigsandlures.co.uk from 80g up to 200g. He also has his own brand of Joker Pink Bliss fluorocarbon leader line which reduces line visibility. The cost of the jigs start from £7.99 up to 24.99.

boat. The sonar screen and a knowledgeable skipper can help with this. When you locate where those hot spots of fish are, drifts will concentrate more to that area and will be timed to allow for those jigs to arrive right on, or just ahead, of them; this is then deadly.

TRYING CONDITIONS

On our trip the conditions were quite challenging – a strong spring tide running north west and a force 4 wind blowing from the north across the tide. This made getting the drift right not only crucial, but quite tricky. This combination meant the wind was quite often beating the tide on the surface, but as the jigs dropped into the water column the tide would take over. Matt used Silver Halo a twin-engine Cheetah Cat, to counter this slightly by positioning the boat across the wind but keeping the engine turned into the tide – this had the effect of stabilising and slowing the drift somewhat, so we were moving at a sensible speed almost in a straight line.

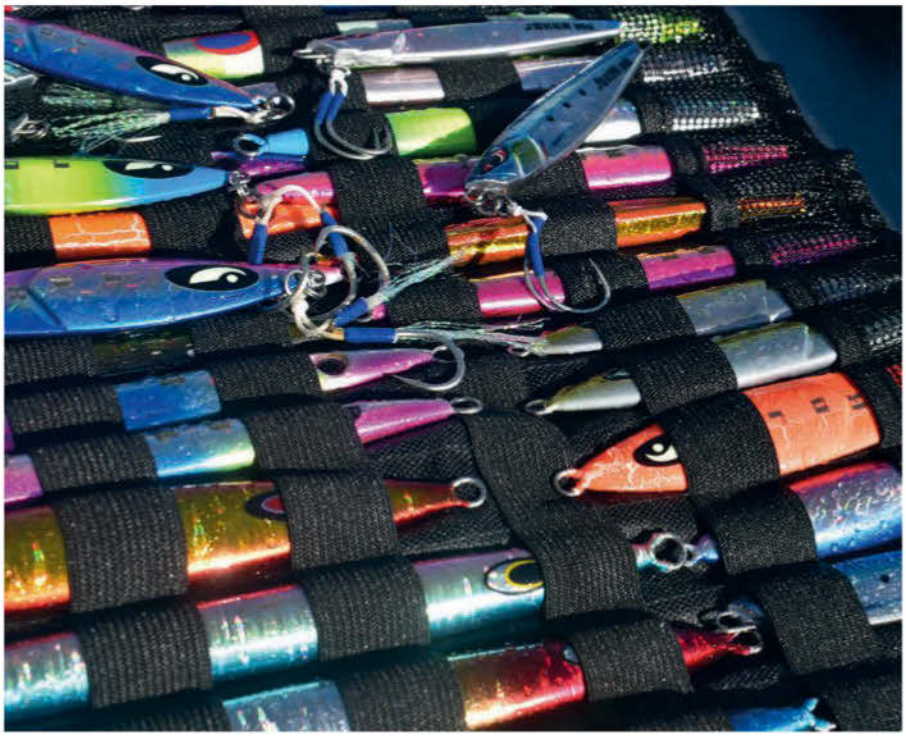
He would then cast the jig uptide and let it stream back to him, fishing it across the stern whilst vertical. He was using both arms, as well as his wrists, to pitch up the rod, rather than just lifting with rigid arms; this helps get the most out of the rod's design and, in turn, the jig. The speed of the drift with the wind meant the boat would move away from the jig so effective fishing time each cycle was reduced. Before the line angle reached halfway between vertical and horizontal (45 degrees) he'd reel back and start again. Once the jig is off the vertical it won't work as effectively - to aid with keeping the jig as deep and true as possible we were using 200g weight Slammer jigs. In more clement conditions 80g or 120g jigs would have sufficed.

The fish were pretty tight to the wrecks and quite difficult to tempt. The combination of tide against wind, plus the presence of dolphins, and possibly bluefin tuna (we saw a decent sized bust near the first couple of wrecks we visited), might have affected the fish's behaviour. After trying three inshore wrecks we moved 10 miles further offshore to a couple of bigger wrecks.

Almost immediately upon settling on a drift Matt had a couple of pollack. On a second wreck nearby we hit some medium sized bass – this success was helped by a slackening of the tide allowing us longer vertical times across the wreck. Getting the pitch and flutter of the jigs was critical to this success. The fishing was tough and required working the jigs carefully.

Fishing in these challenging conditions – when the boat is being held or pushed by the wind and the tide is going away from you – can mean using a more powerful, longer rod. Possibly use a heavier, slimmer, smoother profiled jig – which was why we used the 200g jigs.

It's clear that Matt has put a lot of thought into jigging techniques and tackle. He's refined it down to the last detail and he proved this by catching fish in some of the most challenging conditions. His jigs don't just look great, they're practical and certainly tested and proven. I have used jigs occasionally over the years, usually in benign conditions, but as a relative novice using the method it was great to learn something new and put it into practice – especially learning from someone which really knows how to make it work properly. I'll certainly be trying out this method in my home waters next time I get the chance to get out – and I'll need to upgrade my gear to make the most of it – any excuse! ■

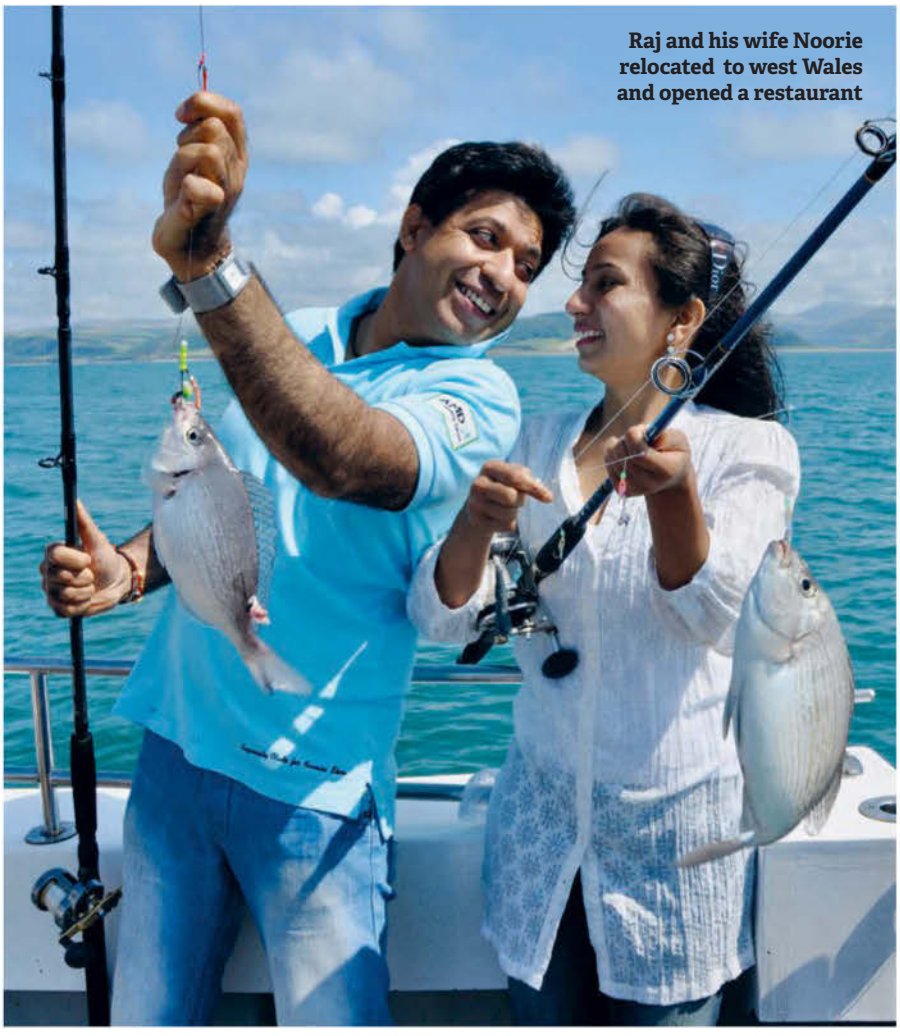


Words and pictures
DAVE LEWIS

DAVE'S DIARIES

BOLLYWOOD BREAM

Dave recalls a trip fishing from West Wales with Indian TV royalty culminating in a slap-up black bream Balti!



Raj and his wife Noorie relocated to west Wales and opened a restaurant

In the last issue I wrote about the time Clive Gammon and I went cod fishing and delivered our fish to internationally acclaimed chef Franco Taruschio, who prepared us a fine meal. As good as that meal undoubtedly was, Michelin Star meals are generally not my thing. Of course, I appreciate a beautiful meal cooked by a skilled chef, but those who know me will confirm that given the choice the option of a good curry will generally win my vote. In this issue I'm going to relate another 'hook n' cook' type story from my past, which to my absolute delight did end up in a rather superb Indian restaurant!

Raj Mayur Verma started his acting career at the tender age of nine. Today he is one of the leading actors in the globally massive Bollywood industry. Over the years Raj has stared in numerous great Bollywood productions not to mention nine long running TV soaps, including 'Mahabharta' the great Indian epic that has been aired on the BBC twice.

With the intention of escaping from the hustle and bustle of hectic city life Raj relocated his family to West Wales, an area he had grown to love while filming various Bollywood projects; yes Wales is increasingly used as a Bollywood location! In addition Raj and his wife Noorie, a talented chef who has cooked for Andrew Lloyd Webber, Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall, opened a unique Indian restaurant in Fairbourne, West Wales, 'Indiana Cuisine', which as you will see is where our day ended…

We were booked to fish with Charlie Bartlett, aboard his famous Aberdovey based charter boat 'Mikatcha'. We met at the car park adjacent to the pier, where I was introduced to Raj, who was looking resplendent in what was clearly a very expensive white leather jacket, over a designer Ferrari polo shirt. Noorie looked

stunning, immaculately turned as she was in designer jeans, a white silk blouse, Dior designer sunglasses and high heels. Raj and Noorie were dressed as if they were going to watch a game of polo rather than spending the day fishing the inshore reefs off Cardigan Bay for black bream. It was politely suggested that perhaps they should have a rethink in the clothing department but no, we were assured, they would both be fine, after all, they had said, the sun was shining!

Given the state of the tide Charlie's boat could only be accessed by scaling down a narrow vertical ladder, and stilettos and ladders are not a great combination. But despite our concerns Noorie scaled that ladder with natural grace, arriving safely on the deck looking, cool, calm and totally unruffled. Raj, on the other hand, was bubbling with the obvious excitement of someone who was clearly really looking forward to his day's fishing

We headed out to sea, following the buoyed channel that takes you over the notorious bar at the mouth of the River Dovey and into Carmarthen Bay. We were heading for a spot where Charlie confidently told us we would catch enough fresh mackerel to secure the day's bait, and within minutes of stopping and commencing fishing the first mackerel were being hoisted over the side. Noorie in particular appeared to have a certain knack with hooking mackerel, but inwardly I was cringing, just waiting for her to slip on those heels and either twist an ankle or worse. As it turned out I needn't have worried: she had good sea legs and somehow even managed to spend the full day fishing without so much of a speck of blood spoiling that white blouse!

With a couple of dozen mackerel lying in the bait box and Mikatcha settled in a steadily increasing run of tide at anchor over the bream mark, we were confident the bream were going to feed. Charlie showed Raj and Noorie how to prepare bite size pieces of mackerel, mount them onto the small hooks on the simple paternoster rigs he had tied, then lower the baited rig slowly down to the bottom.

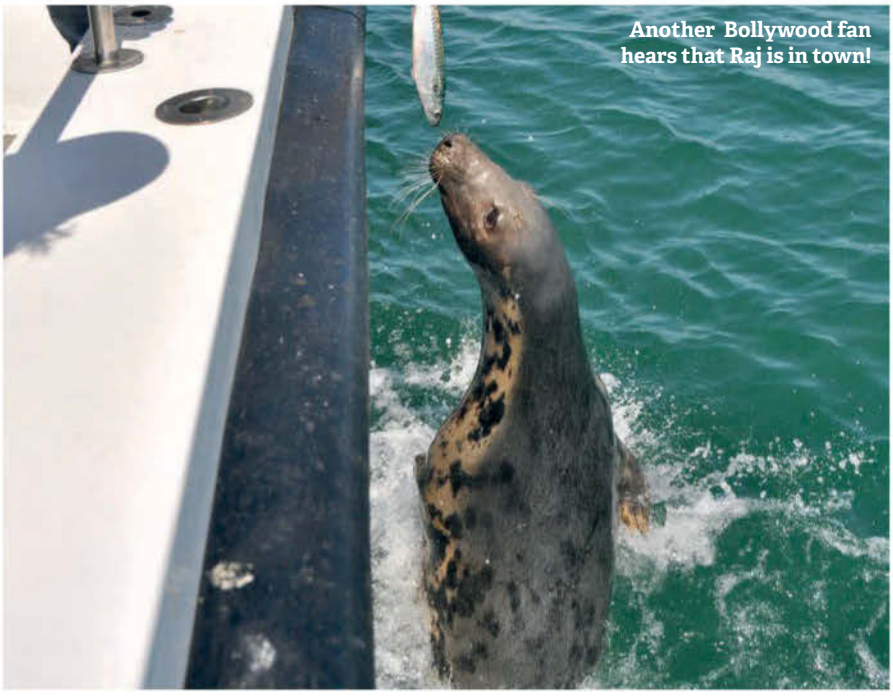
Skipper Charlie assists Raj with another bream

"When you get a bream bite it will be a very distinct hard rattling of the rod tip, and you'll have to strike quickly else the fish will rob all the bait and be gone," Charlie had explained. "Like this," said Noorie holding her rod high, the tip bouncing to the unmistakable tune of a feisty black bream!

Ladies who fish always seem to catch either the most or the biggest fish of the day, or more likely both, and from the start of that day the rest of us were left chasing Noorie's ever-growing tally of fish. Determined not to be upstaged by his wife Raj, too, soon developed the knack of hooking bream. At times, both Raj and Noorie were swinging in bream two at a time, the smiles on their faces proof enough that they were thoroughly enjoying their first day's fishing off the coast of their Welsh home.

We were still catching fish more or less every drop, but by mid-afternoon all aboard were keen to move on to the next stage of our day, a visit to 'Indiana Cuisine', where fresh black bream were once again scheduled to be the star attraction, albeit transformed with a Balti twist! I have enjoyed curry and other Indian delicacies in all four corners of the world, and many places in between, but the meal I enjoyed that day ranks amongst the very best I have eaten anywhere. Skilfully prepared by Noorie and the restaurant's resident chef, several hours later we were presented with the bream we had caught, expertly transformed into the sort of mouth-watering dish that can only be fully appreciated by eating it.

In April this year Indiana Cuisine relocated from Fairbourne to Macdonalds Plas Talgarth Resort in Pennal near Machynlleth. If you fancy a special culinary treat visit: www.indianacuisine.co.uk ■


Another Bollywood fan hears that Raj is in town!

Words and pictures
BY TIM MACPHERSON

SEA ANGLER'S NEW TECH GUIDE TO BOAT FISHING SAFETY

With the recent introduction of new AI technologies to help with boat safety, Tim Macpherson has a look at the risks and best new products to keep you safe on the water this autumn

According to recent statistics from the US most fatalities involved boat owners operating without boating safety instruction and occurred on open motorboats, personal watercraft and cabin motorboats. Drowning was the cause of 75 per cent of deaths, with 87 per cent of victims not wearing lifejackets. In the UK in the MAIB's (Marine Accident Investigation Branch) 2022 report there were 1,263 marine casualties and accidents in the UK – a figure which is down on 2021 numbers but about average for the previous five years. Most of these were in the commercial sector particularly in the fishing industry. For the boats under 15m the figures were much reduced, but in 2022 there were still 292 incidents with non-commercial vessels, with only eight regraded as serious "accidents".

Now it's true to say that, thankfully, accidents amongst boat anglers in the UK are relatively rare but anything which aids increased safety is certainly something to be looked at. There has been, particularly since the Covid lockdown, an increase in boat ownership – and with it the chances of inexperienced boaters going to sea. I have had lots of anecdotal and eyewitness reports of unseaworthy boats being overloaded while being used for leisure angling along the South Coast.

Of course, simple things like wearing lifejackets, which too many of us still don't do, will help – and now lifejacket design has improved immeasurably so that wearing one is not an encumbrance. But anything that can help to make us safer at sea should be looked at.

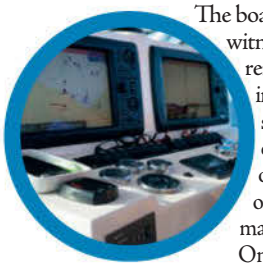
TOP 5 BOATING INCIDENTS

There are five major reasons for boating incidents – reports from both the UK and US confirm these categories: skipper inattention, inadequate lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed and engine or other mechanical failure.

A lot of these really shouldn't be an issue in small angling boats but I know of examples where becoming engrossed in a fishing activity can lead to not noticing approaching weather systems or in one case where a fishing boat was approaching my anchored boat and the skipper of the other boat was not on the bridge, he was hauling gear, and had not seen us… needless to say we very quickly upped anchor and moved when he got too close.

Lack of preparation for a trip is a frequent reason why anglers get into difficulties: not knowing the area you're fishing in, not taking enough fuel, failing electrics (guilty as charged as recounted in a recent issue) and poorly serviced engines (we've all had engine fail on us).

TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE SAFETY



The boating industry is currently witnessing a technology renaissance, with new innovations aimed at enhancing safety onboard vessels and changing the way boaters operate. There are a selection of key advantages which are making notable changes.

On a global level use of autonomous boats are becoming increasingly popular, with drones being used for inspections and surveillance, enhancing search and rescue operations. AI technology and navigation systems are helping to reduce human error on board vessels and improving overall safety. Satellite communication systems ensure reliable, high-speed internet for better coordination and emergency response.

IoT (Internet Of Things) devices enable real-time monitoring, enhancing decision-making and safety. Most boats over a certain size now use advanced radar, sonar and AIS (Automatic Identification Systems) for better situational awareness and collision avoidance, leveraging AI and machine learning for early warnings. IoT sensors and predictive analytics enable early detection of issues and proactive maintenance, enhancing reliability and reducing downtime.

All these AI innovations are being put into practice – mostly for commercial shipping and larger boats but no doubt over time as costs reduce some of it will become available to recreational boat anglers.

On a more practical level there are a lot of things we can do as boat anglers to ensure our safety is enhanced and we regularly feature these in our Boat Store feature: PLBs, Satellite based MOBs and other devices which we hope we'll never have to use.

WEAR A LIFEJACKET

Anglers should not think a lifejacket is just an emergency device. It's by far an angler's best friend on the water and should be regarded as a standard piece of clothing – just like putting on a pair of socks. If you do go into the sea you're protected; without it your chances of survival are reduced. A well-fitting lifejacket/floatation device will provide an angler with precious survival time until help arrives. Advances in technology mean that lifejackets are not the bulky items they were years ago.

An auto-inflate lifejacket will inflate even if you are unconscious and will keep your head above the water. There is a diverse range designed for anglers, from fishing vests with integral gas inflation to slim-line fly fishing horseshoe jackets. There are so many available on the market now you can pick the type that best suits your style of angling.

A PERSONAL LOCATING BEACON (PLB)

These are attached to a lifejacket or worn around the neck and when activated will send an emergency alert to a Mission Control Centre who then relay the information to the Coastguard.

Individual PLBs have different features. One with built-in GPS will give your position. Without a GPS it will still alert Coastguards but won't reveal your location. By registering your PLB (at www.gov.uk/maritime-safety-weather-and-navigation/register-406-mhz-beacons) the Coastguard will have all the relevant information about your vessel available. This will save valuable time and allows the most appropriate search and rescue asset to your assistance to be sent.

For as little as £120 you can make a massive investment to your ongoing safety whilst afloat and put your mind at ease.

EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING RADIO BEACONS (EPIRBS)

These are devices installed on a boat and can be automatically activated upon immersion or impact or triggered manually. They send a distress alert to the Coastguard with your position and can be accurate to plus or minus 50m! A basic EPIRB will cost around £350 and one with in-built GPS and other functions a bit more. It's a small price to pay to have a state-of-the-art piece of kit that could save your life.

VHS RADIO

Very often situations at sea develop rapidly and very often you won't even have a chance to raise the alarm. Don't wait, inform the Coastguard as soon as a potentially difficult situation is developing. Speed is of the utmost importance, you never get time back. Once notified, they monitor the situation and do regular check calls to make sure the situation hasn't worsened.

You can use your VHF Radio, VHF Digital Selective Calling (DSC), a PLB, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and even 999 on your mobile phone. All vessels should be equipped with a VHF set and nowadays they nearly all have DSC inbuilt into the units.

The advantage of the VHS radio is that when you make an emergency call on it you will tell everyone within range what your situation is even if you cannot see them – there might even be someone nearby who can help you more quickly.

GENERAL SAFETY ADVICE

Check the weather and tide conditions
This seems an obvious action that any angler would take before going afloat, but it is so important to check the outlook ahead. Often the sea can be your friend when you depart for a day afloat but a sudden change in weather can happen very quickly. A check of the forecast for the following 24 hours will allow you to determine if the weather is going to change significantly so that you can alter your plans accordingly. Listen to local knowledge and make sure, if fishing an area unfamiliar to you, that you are aware of the tides and direction of drift.

Anglers are well known for their attention to detail when targeting their chosen species, including preparing the correct rigs, obtaining high-quality bait and selecting their chosen venue; a little extra planning into the weather could make their fishing trip one to remember and not one to forget.

You can easily check the tide and weather conditions on a number of apps which give real time weather and tidal data. XCWeather, Windy, Surfline and Tides Near Me are some popular apps (all featured in issue 638). In addition, it's well worth knowing the local currents and features in the area you are fishing. The Navionics app does have some of this data and studying this carefully could save a lot of time and effort.

Maintaining your boat
A well-maintained boat sounds obvious, but there are often aspects that are overlooked or missed. The most important of these is the first service of the new season. Boat anglers will often put their boat to bed, or use it very little during the winter, and the importance of a full service by a qualified marine engineer before heading back out in spring must never be over looked. The risks of going afloat for the first time without a service in a vessel that has been barely been used are high. It's as important as getting the MOT done on your car! Always check that your engine(s) and safety equipment are properly serviced and are working properly.

Fuel, batteries and other vital kit
We would recommend always making sure that you have more than enough fuel for the duration of your time afloat, carry a spare battery and be competent in being able to change it. Make sure that your anchor is readily available if needed and has enough anchor chain and rope for every eventuality. Also carry a bailer in case of engine failure. Never overload the vessel and make sure that you stay within the limits of the vessel's abilities.

The fobs have up to 300 hours of battery life, and are generally powered by an easy to change standard coin cell battery. The hub then connects to 12-24V power and to your engine stopping system.

A lot of these measures are regularly adhered to by most boat anglers but it's always important to keep checking, keep refreshing and keep checking. Above all prepare for your trip, check the weather, make sure you have enough fuel regularly service your engine – which is your life saver – and above all, stay alert and be prepared for the worst.

"On a global level use of autonomous boats are becoming increasingly popular"

MOBILE PHONES

Using a mobile as your only safety device is not advisable because if mobile network coverage is poor then you might not be able to make a mobile call at all. Keeping your phone dry is also essential, keeping it working must be a priority. Keep it in a drybag or small see-through plastic wallet to ensure that it remains functional despite the wet conditions. Above all, make sure your phone is fully charged before setting out. Avoid fishing alone in remotes spots and, if fishing at night (not recommended), take more than one light. You can always use your light (even from your mobile phone) to alert someone on shore.

VHF radio coverage along the coast is generally much better. For remote locations, carry a 406 Personal Locator Beacon just in case. Make sure that hand-held VHF radios and fixed VHR microphones are stowed correctly and that they are not inadvertently transmitting - open microphone carriers can render all communications on Channel 16 impossible.

FLARES

Always an essential element of your boat survival gear. We've all had the traditional flares in our boats; they are expensive and have a sell by date so need replacing on a regular basis – and disposing of them has become a real issue. So the advent of electronic visual distress flares – some of which include infra-red technology – means that these flares don't have a sell by date and will last a lot longer – and be much less hazardous.

CORDLESS KILL CORDS

One piece of new tech which is available is a cordless kill cord. These devices act within two seconds of a person going overboard. The systems consists of an easy to install hub mounted in your boat and a wearable fob. The two communicate wirelessly with each other. There are a few different brands available with some like the Olaf Guardian having the capability to have up to 25 fobs (useful for larger boats) so if any of the crew goes over the engine will be stopped instantly.

TOP 10 NEW HIGH-TECH SAFETY GADGETS FOR BOAT FISHING

#1

MUSTANG SURVIVAL LIFE JACKETS:

Mustang Survival continues to push the boundaries of innovation with its latest release, the ISO-approved Atlas 190 Pro Sensor Life Jacket. Recipient of a Special Mention at the DAME Design Awards in the Personal Equipment category, the Atlas 190 Life Jacket is a ground-breaking inflatable platform with a re-engineered bladder for exceptional turning performance and airway protection. These life jackets emphasise comfort during prolonged wear and impressive safety—190N of buoyancy—when inflated. The Atlas utilises ADAPT Technology (Advanced Airway Protection & Turning); bladder lobes shape turns the wearer face up effectively, baffle barriers dissipate incoming waves and an integrated pillow provides optimal head support and stability.

The deluxe (DLX) model adds an integrated spray hood for extra airway protection and a water-activated light for increased visibility in emergencies, ensuring everyone returns home safely. Only available for purchase in the UK, online and at all Mustang Survival retailers.

RRP:
- Atlas 190 Pro Sensor Life Jacket £210
- Atlas 190 DLX Pro Sensor Life Jacket £230
- www.mustang-survival.co.uk

MAN OVERBOARD - OCEAN SIGNAL SAFESEA M200:

#2

A robust 'man overboard' device with Class M AIS approval, ensuring immediate and reliable distress signalling. NFC Mobile app connectivity has been incorporated to provide easy to use MOB programming, product details and testing information.
- RRP £278.40

#3

PERSONAL LOCATING BEACON - OCEAN SIGNAL RESCUEME PLB3:

This is a compact and powerful Personal Locator Beacon that combines AIS and the global response capabilities of Cospas-Sarsat in an industry first, to ensure safety for mariners and outdoor enthusiasts alike.
- RRP £483

ELECTRONIC DISTRESS FLARES - OCEAN SIGNAL RESCUEME EDF2:

#4

Here's a state-of-the-art electronic distress flare providing superior multi-colour visibility, including new infrared technology. The buoyant electronic flare is compliant with new Radio Technical Commission for Maritime standards.
- RRP: from £120

EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING RADIO BEACON - OCEAN SIGNAL SAFESEA S200 (AIS SART):

The SafeSea S200 is an Automatic Identification System Search and Rescue Transmitter that enhances search and rescue operations with precise location tracking. NFC Mobile app connectivity provides easy to use SART programming, product details and testing information.
- RRP: from £700

#5

IRIDIUM 9575 EXTREME SATELLITE PHONES:

It's always useful to have an extra communication device when angling well offshore out of phone range and this phone, the Iridium Extreme, is the new satellite handset from Iridium and is engineered with more features and more accessories than many others on the market. This model is built with the same reliable voice and data capability that Iridium users have come to trust and runs off the same fully global satellite network. The Iridium Extreme has more features and accessories than any other Iridium satellite phone and is the only one with real time tracking and GPS-enabled SOS. It can connect with devices such as the Iridium Axcess Point or MailASail's Red Box to create a Wi-Fi hotspot to keep in touch on your devices, giving access to email, WhatsApp and weather downloads. It's also the first phone with military-grade 810F durability: it's dust proof, shock and jet-water resistant.

- RRP at £1571 from www.Mailasail.com
- RRP £2399 with MailaSail Red box

EXPOSURE MOB CARBON 2 MARINE TORCH:

Stay safe and highly visible at sea with this Carbon 2 strobe torch. It has a unique blend of carbon and aluminium and is designed to float and flash when thrown into the water. It works up to a depth of 5m and has an extremely powerful light allowing maximum versatility. Its strobe is activated when immersed in water – this combination with a torch and strobe is a new development. If you fall overboard the light will float and automatically start strobing at 1 flash per second for up to 20 hours. Alternatively, it can be thrown towards a MOB and it will float, start strobing and clearly mark the position.

- RRP: £130

GARMIN CGC DECK CAMERAS:

Garmin has launched a new marine camera. The CGC 245 and 255 are purpose built to enhance proximity awareness and confidence – particularly when docking. One is deck mounted the other flush mounted. Both cameras feature on-screen distance markers and guidance lines to provide peace of mind during low-speed manoeuvres.

The cameras deliver multiple views directly to a compatible Garmin chartplotter, including Standard View, FishEye View and Bird's Eye View. Users can see up to four camera feeds simultaneously on a compatible chartplotter or share the video across networked chartplotters throughout the vessel. Mariners can also use digital zoom to take a closer look at a specific area of interest or pan around the field of view to focus on anything within sight. Engineered for a wide range of boats, the GC 255 has a stainless steel thru-hull design that can be flush-mounted, while the GC 245 has a surface-mount design and is available in black or white options to compliment the boat's interior.

RRP:

- GC 245 surface mount camera – £689.99
- GC 255 flush mount camera – £1039.99

FIRESAFETY STICK:

Every boat should have a fire extinguisher on board – usually dry powder-based systems which are great but can be messy and are often large and unwieldy. We have found a new innovation in the Fire Safety Stick. It's very small and lightweight and is based on tried and tested technology created for the space programme. By chemically interrupting the chain of combustion this fire stick puts out fires without the toxicity or danger associated with traditional devices. It can even be left in an enclosed area to continue to suppress a fire when you have escaped. The discharge time is longer than a conventional compact extinguisher and is not pressurised in its stable state so it's safe and durable.

- RRP: £70
- firesafetystick.com

OLAS GUARDIAN WIRELESS KILL CORDS:

Cordless Kill Cords are a new and very useful piece of safety tech. These devices act within two seconds of a person going overboard. The system consists of an easy to install hub mounted in your boat and a wearable fob. The two communicate wirelessly with each other. There are a few different brands available with some like the Olaf Guardian having the capability to have up to 25 fobs (useful for larger boats) so if any of the crew goes over the engine will be stopped instantly.

- RRP: £235

Words and Photography by DAVE LEWIS

LEOPARD SPOTTED GOBY

UK & IRELAND SPECIALIST SPECIES HUNTING

Dave Lewis explains where to find, and how to target, this distinctive mini species this autumn

Unlike other members of the goby family, which can be very hard to distinguish from each other, the leopard spotted goby, Thorogobius ephippiatus, with its distinctive orange and red spots, is easy to identify. The 'LSG' has diamond-shaped scales, blue-edged dorsal fins and a black spot at the back of the first dorsal fin. It can be found along Atlantic coasts from Scandinavia to Madeira, including the Mediterranean. A desirable 'tick' for any species hunter, the current British record for leopard spotted goby is held with a fish that weighed 39g: less than an ounce-and-a-half. That fish was caught at Cemaes Bay, Anglesey, in 1995.

Divers report that leopard spotted goby are shy fish, typically inhabiting very rocky and kelp strewn areas, often favouring cracks on steep walls and caves. Shipwrecks are another favourite habitat. You can find LSGs in very shallow water including inter-tidal rock pools, bit they are also found at depths down to 40m.

I am told that many species hunters fish long and hard in order to catch their first LSG. I was lucky, my first fish was one of several caught in a single day fishing Fishguard Breakwater. At the time my target fish was the elusive topknot, which I did eventually catch, but only after I had brought to hand around half a dozen LSGs. At the time I considered them to be something of a nuisance!

TACTICS

As with most mini-species LSGs are primarily scavengers, eagerly grabbing whichever tidbits come their way. My fish were caught on tiny pieces of ragworm, but other baits including similar size offerings of other species of worm, shellfish, mackerel and pieces of crab-peeled legs would no doubt work. Clearly it is essential to use very small hooks, such as size 14 or even 16.

With an almost countrywide distribution, LSGs are absent or rare throughout East Anglia. It's a species that all species hunters and LRF enthusiasts can target. Given my past success I'd suggest fishing between the boulders on the outside of breakwaters would be a good starting point. Try and concentrate on fishing the remaining depressions still holding water towards the low water mark, as these are where most fish will be forced to congregate until the next tide allows them to disperse amongst the structure. On occasions it might also be possible to sight fish for this species if, for example, they can be located in deep rock pools at low water. Finally, I'd guess that, given the numbers of fish I caught at a single location, if you hear of fish being caught at a particular mark, it would be extremely likely that further attempts would produce more fish. Time now for you to find out! ■

SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

Q&A

SHORE ANGLING

ASK THE EXPERTS

When sending your question, please remember to include your name and address

CHRIS KENNEDY

Chris is a specimen hunting specialist based on Sark and answers shore fishing questions.

DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.

DAVID MITCHELL

David is Sea Angler's editor and is an expert on sea angling policy and conservation .

HENRY GILBEY

Angler, blogger and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, is our lure expert.

BEN BASSETT

The Plymouth angler and blogger will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

BRIAN PASK

Brian is a qualified sea angling coach and casting tutor who works with young people and experienced anglers to improve their fishing skills.

Q Watching the recent Olympics, I noticed that most of the throwers, such as discus and javelin, were throwing at an angle between 32 to 36 degrees. Is there an optimum angle for casting a fishing weight?

EDDIE SKINNER

BP says: Probably the key element in beach casting is the release point of the lead weight. Too soon and you end up sending it into the sky; too late and an early dip in the sea is your reward. The optimum release point is when the stiffest part of your rod is in front of you at about 45 degrees to the ground. However, during the set up before casting, the angler should be looking in the direction the cast is to go with your eyes looking up at around 40 degrees to the horizon. These 40 degrees is around the optimum angle for the lead to leave the rod.

Q Other than getting your rod tip as high as possible, do you have any tips for when there is lots of weed when estuary fishing?

ANDY GILLINGHAM

CK says: My first would be to use a rig and components that are as streamlined as possible to try to limit catching weed on your rigs. My second would be to try to understand the area in which you are fishing intimately. Often, estuaries have periods of the tide that are almost impossible to fish and other phases when there is little to no weed at all. It's imperative that you have up-to-date information where possible and that you fish the tidal phases that give you the best chance of catching and avoiding heavy weed passing through. I might even be tempted to use a 7ft or 8ft tripod and put the cups high to elevate my rods further, providing it is not overly windy.

Q As a result of an injury to my left shoulder I now have limited use in that arm. I have been told that it's ok to try beach fishing again, but when casting the distance is about 20 metres less than before my accident. I would like to know if a more expensive rod would help me achieve more distance.

BRIAN COLEMAN

BP says: I am sure that some anglers out there may claim that their favourite rod would be best for you and help increase your casting distance, but I am not amongst that group.

As a casting and beach fishing coach, I am lucky enough to have been afforded the opportunity to try a range of different rods. You might think that this would put me in a position to tell you exactly which rod would be best for you. However, my answer to the question, "what rod will allow me to cast further?" is always the same: it is not necessarily the more expensive rods that will help you. It is about finding the best rod for you. The well-worn phrase "bend it to send it" is actually correct. To get the best distance, you need a rod that you can load with energy when it is bent. This can be dependent on a number of criteria such as your mobility, strength, any relevant injuries, casting style and more.

Ask around your angling friends, a friendly local tackle dealer or even through a local Facebook fishing site to see if there are fellow anglers who might let you have a go with their rods to try and find the extra distance you are looking for. Trying different kit really is the best way forward when looking for a new rod.

Don't forget that as well as the rod, there are other components involved in casting! Ensure your reel is fully spooled with an appropriate line and shockleader. Do you need to change your casting style to get more out of the rod you already own? Finally, distance isn't the only factor involved in catching fish – they could be in close, very close.

Q Should Sea Angler be using its influence to promote the banning of treble hooks? No matter how careful anglers are during removal the damage will be threefold that caused by singles. The use of trebles is completely outdated, especially in times of conservation of stocks and the promotion of catch and release.

TREVOR HOWLETT

DM says: I am increasingly in agreement with your opinion that treble hooks are, for the vast majority of examples, unnecessary. Having started using jigs and lures with single hooks I haven't noticed any reduction on hook-up rates and the release of the fish is much cleaner and easier. Aside from the hooks in the fish, I've found disentangling the single hooks from the landing net much quicker too, helping me get my lure back in the water more quickly.

Most anglers use the hooks provided by the manufacturer and most still come with trebles. I believe the angling manufacturers therefore have a role to play in providing their products with single hooks – or the option of singles or trebles.

As far as promoting a ban of treble hooks goes, I would be much more cautious. I don't believe this is necessary and I would much rather see a voluntary cultural change amongst sea anglers towards using single hooks.

HOW TO ASK US A QUESTION

Email: sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
or online: facebook.com/seaanglermag

By asking a question you are giving us permission to use your name and where you live in all versions and platforms of this magazine.

SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

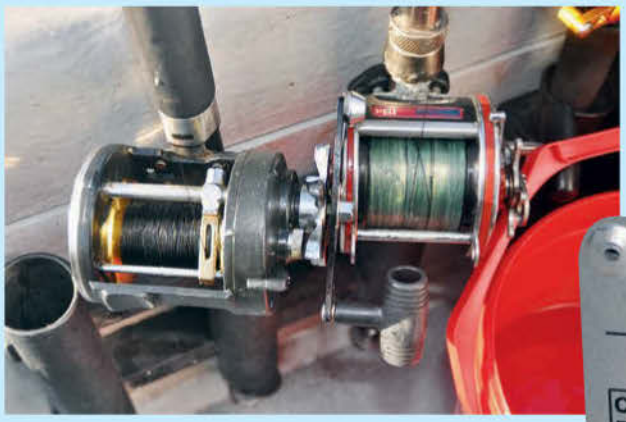
Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

Q Is it best to use a reel with or without a level wind when fishing from a boat?

TREFOR EVANS

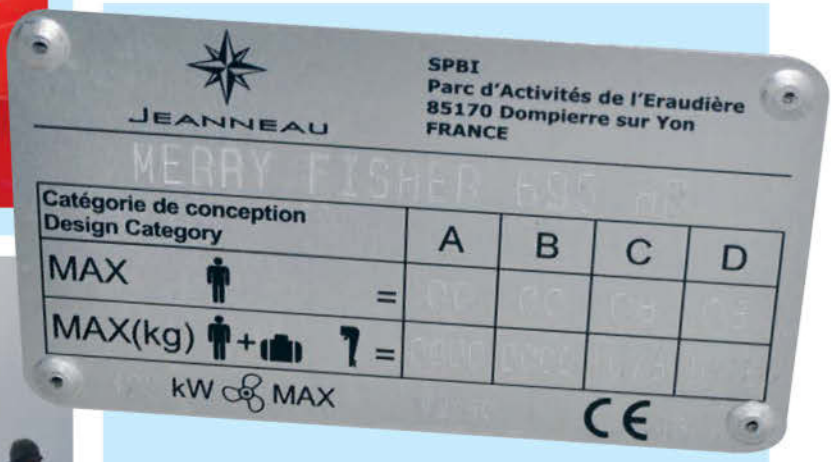
DL says: For light to medium fishing (6-12lb, 12-20lb and 20-30lb class) I am happy to use either, though almost all of the reels I use afloat today are non-level wind. For anything heavier than 30lb class I do not recommend a level wind: from my experience the strain exerted on the level wind mechanism will eventually lead to failure. Given a little practice, levelling the line by hand becomes second nature



Q When fishing afloat, are hardback crabs as effective as peeler crab?

COLIN MCCABE

DL says: From my experience, no. Whereas peeler crab will catch most fish that swim in UK waters, hardbacks are only effective for relatively few, such as smoothounds and wrasse.



Q Any advice for fishing aboard small boats in foggy conditions?

MARK RUDDLE

DL says: My best advice is if in doubt, don't go out. If you do decide to head offshore keep well away from any areas used by larger boats or commercial shipping, and certainly avoid anchoring in busy waterways. Even if you have GPS carry a compass too and know how to use it. Finally, navigating in fog is very disorientating. Often you may be convinced you are heading in the wrong direction, despite what your electronics are telling you. You must trust your equipment, especially that all important compass.

Q Can you explain the CE regulations, more specifically the aluminium plate fitted to most boats?

SIMON MURPHY

DL says: The CE regulations classify different waterways in four categories: A, B, C and D. A is offshore, and D covers mostly sheltered inland coastal waterways. The plate indicates which areas that boat has been deemed suitable for use within, along with the maximum size engine that can be fitted, the maximum load it can carry and numbers of adult crew.

Q What size feathers or lures are most effective for catching mackerel?

NEIL MATTHEW RHYS

DL says: On a good day almost any lure will catch mackerel including traditional feathers, along with their modern equivalents such as Hokeye lures. On other days the size of lure can be critical. When struggling to catch mackerel on regular size lures, switching to very small lures such as shrimp rigs or Sabikis can result immediately in multiple strings of fish.

Q Is cuttlefish a good bait afloat and if so, for which species? Also, where can it be obtained?

JIM HOGSHEAD

DL says: Cuttle is a tremendous bait that is effective for many species, most notably conger, cod, bass, skate and rays. It's a very tough bait that holds up well when fishing areas where lots of small fish quickly destroy softer baits. Cuttle can occasionally be bought in a tackle shop, frozen or fresh from a fishmonger; however, the most reliable source is commercial fishermen. In areas where cuttle is a popular bait, such as the South Coast, most charter skippers have contacts from whom they can source it.

SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

Q&A

LURE FISHING

Q I like the look of these casting jigs. Do you use them, and if so, how are you fishing them?

MATT THORNHILL

HG says: I do use casting jigs, but not as much as I use something like the Savage Gear Seeker. I wouldn't be without a casting jig or two though, and in some sessions they have caught me bass and pollack when nothing else has. Initially I bought a load of casting jigs to use for my surf fishing, but I soon found out that "jigging" is virtually impossible when you are fishing at range over fairly shallow water and especially if you have strong crosswinds. Fishing with casting jigs from the shore is all about control and feel, and if there is one thing that kills that it's crosswinds. This is why I turn to a metal lure like the Surf Seeker because I can simply whack it out and wind it in.

I tend to turn to casting jigs either when I am fishing in deeper water or if I want to cover a lot of water – good casting jigs cast like missiles – or when there are visible signs of bait like birds working. Remember, with a casting jig that the lure is fishing on the drop, or to put it simply, as it's sinking. This is when you are most likely to get hit, but you need to control that drop and maintain contact all the time. With a sink and draw retrieve, I see the "draw" or lifting up as kind of setting the lure, then the "sink" or "drop" is when the lure is fluttering down and the fish will nail it. When you are fishing your casting jig with a controlled drop, if at any point your lure suddenly stops or you feel a sharp tap, wind down very quickly and strike. You can get casting jigs down deep if need be; however, you can also cover a lot of water and fish them with a sink and draw back to you if, for example, you need to reach feeding birds.

In my lure box I would tend to carry a 20g or 30g casting jig for my regular lure rods, then perhaps a 40g one if I am fishing with a more powerful rod. I really like the Savage Gear Jig Minnow (20g and 40g) and Seadra (good range of weights, including 30g versions) casting jigs. They all tend to come pre-rigged and then you can adapt the hooks as you see fit.

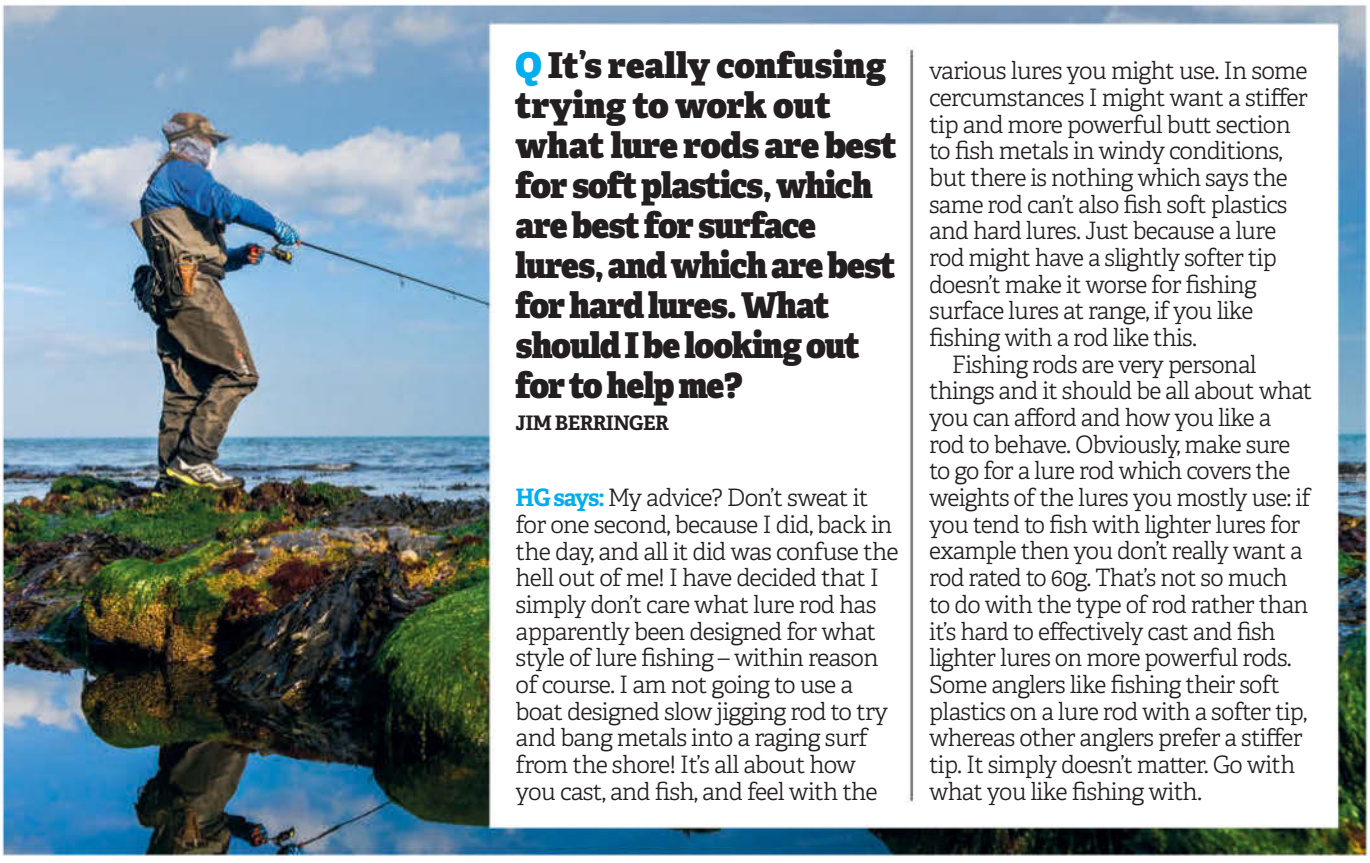
Q I have never caught a bass; I want to stick to lure fishing only and live in Leicestershire. Please can you suggest some places in the UK along with times of day and time of year where I have the best chance of success?

ANDY JAMES

HG says: You won't tend to find anglers divulging specific locations and tide times Andy, but make Google Earth your friend and also consider doing some guided lure fishing with somebody like Marc Cowling of South Devon Bass Guide or Marcus Hezeldine of Seeker Sportfishing. Lure fishing for bass is so much about the where and when. If you were going on a family holiday to somewhere like Cornwall, I would be pouring over Google Earth in search of shallow, reefy ground, and I'd be looking to fish it with "gently, bouncy" onshore conditions.

A lot of reefs I fish seem to work better from high water down – the ebb tide – and a lot of surf fishing on surf beaches I do tends to work well from low water up – the flood tide.

But the best way to take a crash course in lure fishing for bass, and the sort of ground you need to fish, is to hire a professional guide. Nothing beats confidence in lure fishing, so to be guided by professionals who know where to look for bass and when is invaluable. Indeed, It might well be the best money you can spend on fishing. Learn, absorb and use the knowledge to search for your own bass fishing.



Q It's really confusing trying to work out what lure rods are best for soft plastics, which are best for surface lures, and which are best for hard lures. What should I be looking out for to help me?

JIM BERRINGER

HG says: My advice? Don't sweat it for one second, because I did, back in the day, and all it did was confuse the hell out of me! I have decided that I simply don't care what lure rod has apparently been designed for what style of lure fishing – within reason of course. I am not going to use a boat designed slow jigging rod to try and bang metals into a raging surf from the shore! It's all about how you cast, and fish, and feel with the various lures you might use. In some cercumstances I might want a stiffer tip and more powerful butt section to fish metals in windy conditions, but there is nothing which says the same rod can't also fish soft plastics and hard lures. Just because a lure rod might have a slightly softer tip doesn't make it worse for fishing surface lures at range, if you like fishing with a rod like this.

Fishing rods are very personal things and it should be all about what you can afford and how you like a rod to behave. Obviously, make sure to go for a lure rod which covers the weights of the lures you mostly use: if you tend to fish with lighter lures for example then you don't really want a rod rated to 60g. That's not so much to do with the type of rod rather than it's hard to effectively cast and fish lighter lures on more powerful rods. Some anglers like fishing their soft plastics on a lure rod with a softer tip, whereas other anglers prefer a stiffer tip. It simply doesn't matter. Go with what you like fishing with.

Q&A

LIGHT ROCK FISHING

Q You use a leader that is stronger than your mainline. Is this for casting reasons, so you don't snap off on the cast?

RICKY HOUNSOME

BB says: I don't always, but I do when I am using ester line. This is because the best ester (polyester) line is very fine, usually less than 2lb breaking strain. In general, I use a 3lb fluorocarbon leader with my braid and ester, so I end up using a leader that is stronger than my mainline. This isn't great for when you snag, but it's ideal for when you land a fish as you can grab the leader, not the mainline, for controlling and lifting the fish. This may seem counterintuitive but I absolutely love ester line; it has been a revelation for my super ultralight fishing. The main point of it being that it sinks quicker than nylon or braid, and provides minimal resistance as you cast, so you can use tiny weights and lures. With a well-set drag, you can still land quality fish too.

Q To what degree does fun influence what technique or rig you use in comparison to what you think will perform the best on the day?

JAKE MICALLEF

BB says: Increasingly more and more so. You could also interpret 'fun' as 'a challenge', and that is what I find myself doing very regularly. Although I still really enjoy a good old species hunt, trying to work out the best way to catch on a particular lure or technique, or trying out a more outlandish lure, is what gives me the biggest thrill when lerfing these days. We have never been more spoilt for choice with lures and tackle, it is truly a golden age for LRF. So I love taking advantage of that and pushing what I think is possible. Fishing is fun, but LRF is on another level in my opinion.

Q With the steady increase each season in new plastic lures, do you have a favourite that continues to catch for you, especially if circumstances seem to be against you?

BILL SEAGER

BB says: An interesting question: I guess it depends on whether we are talking about plastic or the artificial baits. If it is the latter, then the Ecogear Aqua Shirasu continues to catch everything I need it to and gives me that confidence I need when times are tough. For true soft plastic, it is either the Magbite Booty Shake for smaller species or the Keitech Easy Shiner for larger species. Getting the best out of our lure fishing is often in the head, so those fallback lures and techniques can be crucial.

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Sport fishing range

A MONTH TO REMEMBER!

Coach Brian reports on an amazing month when the generosity of the sea angling community to help get kids fishing has been a shining example for others to follow

One of my youth club parents, a good friend Barry, was out fishing with me (a rare occasion that I am fishing and not coaching) when I noticed he had a new reel. When Barry told me how little he had paid for it, I asked him to order me 20 reels for the youngsters! A few days later Barry called to say that his contact didn't have this many in stock but would get back to him. Some days later Barry called to say he was going to the tackle dealer's warehouse to collect our reels and mentioned that the dealer was going to throw some extras in for the kids. A few hours later, Barry called again and, unlike him, was somewhat stuck for words! The dealer had "thrown in" so much stuff that the car was full!

Barry and I met up that evening. To see the amount of boxes in his house was a bit mind blowing! On top of our reels we had been gifted some 12ft beachcasters, some 9ft beachcasters with reels and some 7ft spinning rods also with reels. In a separate box was a pile of rig building kit. All in all, an amazingly generous gesture. The group would like to thank Percy's Tackle in Lewes – you are incredible!

In addition to this, we have had traces made for us by Chris, another friend of mine, as are Bob and Dave both who regularly donate bait, our biggest expense every week. A few other people have been in touch recently with further offers of kit and we are currently arranging collection of it. It is such selfless donations that enable us to run the club in the way that we do and allow dozens of young people to experience the joy of sea angling.

On the fishing front, things have been a bit slow but we have managed to pick out a few fish here and there. Dan and Andre from my adult beginners' group have broken their duck, Dan with a nice flounder and Andre a small pout. These may not be the greatest fish in the world but how many of you caught something spectacular for your first fish? It doesn't matter what the fish is, or how big it is, it gets you the fishing bug and you want more and bigger. That is the thrill that I get to experience alongside those I coach.

What of the youth club aside from getting new kit? A second postponed boat competition owing to a windy weather forecast, again! We do seem to be getting stronger winds, and more often. As we are a beach launched club, this makes launching and retrieving dangerous so we have to err on the side of caution.

Having said this, all the plans finally came together and, on the third attempt, we managed to get afloat. The amount of organising that goes into getting a group of youngsters out on several boats at the same time is mind boggling. Boats – no issue for us as we have eight club boats which are available for members to use if they provide an engine. But where do you get a load of lifejackets for all the youngsters? Luckily, I know a man. Many thanks to Reg Phillips for the loan – I will get them back to you mate! We then needed an engine and skipper for each boat! This is a problem but nothing that Les from our boatyard can't sort out. "That's what we do," he said. What a fantastic attitude. We are very grateful for everything he and his colleagues do.

Our youth club meets on Wednesday evenings and, with the darker evenings getting ever earlier, we need to go to sea earlier in order to make it a decent session. The day we managed to get out meant that the youngsters, coaches and skippers needed to be on the beach by 4:00pm at the latest – not easy when parents, coaches and skippers are all working. Despite this we made it. 13 young anglers across four boats skippered by Ian, who works in our boatyard; Dan, a club member who very kindly volunteered; Keith, one of our coaching team; and me, all made it onto the sea and, after a few issues with a couple of the boats, found ourselves anchored up a few hundred yards off our local pier.

ON THE WATER – AT LAST!

First drop saw a very quick bite resulting in a small smoothhound for Joseph. We all thought we were in for a great evening's fishing. Sadly, this was not to be. Several mackerel were caught, which do not count in competition, but very few other fish made it to the boats.

On our return to shore it was nice to see the youngsters getting involved in putting all the kit away, including boats and engines. We did have a presentation, as this was a competition, and I was delighted to see so many parents attending as well. Joseph topped the leader board with his smoothhound and was awarded the trophy and a voucher for our local tackle shop.

Organising an event such as this is extremely stressful and I am pleased it is over. However, I am delighted that it went so well. It is a shame that the fish didn't turn up in the numbers we hoped, but seeing the smiles on the faces of all the young anglers after the event made everything worthwhile. Having managed to get a single boat session for the group this year, I hope to run a short series of boat events next year.

Coaching is not all about turning up and catching fish. The organisation of kit, bait, marks to fish and tactics all take time and effort – especially finding marks!

More of this to follow in future months along with us following the journey that two of my youth club lads are about to embark on.

They would like to get into match fishing – a really tough gig. I will be putting them through some intensive coaching to try and get them into a position that they can enter the junior section of some competitions and hopefully compete for prizes. ■

FIRST LOOK

TRONIXPRO XENON C-6 | 8000 REEL

New from Tronixpro is this super smooth reel that comes with 13+1, marine grade, stainless-steel bearings for a silky retrieve. The worm shaft gearing system provides plenty of torque and eliminates movement and vibration, making playing fish and retrieving from long distances effortless. The quick drag system allows you to change the reel drag from light to full-on with one turn of the drag knob, perfect when targeting fish that you want to run on the initial take. The slow oscillation system ensures that the line lay is perfect, every time, helping to gain those extra casting yards.

The reel spool comes with two sprung line clips on either side; these make it easy to thread the line underneath to stop it from unravelling. They're also perfect for anglers fishing accurately and using the line clip to ensure they're casting the correct distance each time.

For strength, it comes with a screw-in handle, eliminating any twist and movement in the handle when retrieving

- RRP: £89.99
- Available from Tronix Stockists

SHIMANO OCEA BOMB DIP RANGE

The new Shimano Ocea 'Bomb Dip' range of poppers are designed for large, hard fighting species such as GTs, tuna, roosterfish and the plethora of other hard fighting species anglers today target. Closer to home these would be very effective lures for large coalfish in northern Norway, and even bluefin tuna.

Ocea Bomb Dip poppers are a floating lure that have an overall length of 170mm, and weigh 72g. As is the case with most quality surface lures they are supplied without hooks, leaving the angler to choose whether to rig using traditional treble hooks or the more popular in-line single hooks. Bomb Dip poppers are supplied with heavy duty split rings. Moulded from tough clear plastic, key features include exclusive Jet Boost and Flash Boost technology for increased performance. Jet Boost consists of a deeply cupped front end with through vent, which in addition to a loud pop creates a fish attracting bubble trail.

The flash boost includes a shiny spring-loaded silver plate within the translucent body that flickers and flashes when the lure is retrieved, and even works when the lure is stationary, enabling predators to home in on the lure with speed and aggression. Currently there are six colour options available within the range.

- RRP: £29.99
- Available from Shimano stockists

WESTIN SOLAR UPF HALF FINGER GLOVES

Protect against the elements with these microfibre leather gloves that have been carefully designed to give maximum comfort and feel when embarking on your next fishing adventure.

The spandex material gives improved fit, thanks to a degree of stretch, whilst the anti-slip silicone print on the palm and fingers provides reassuring grip when you need it most. The ultimate fishing glove for warmer climates, choose between full finger or half finger models to suit how you fish.

- **50+ sun protection**
- **85% polyester/15% elastane**
- **Microfibre leather palms**
- **Anti-slip silicone print inside palm and fingers**
- **All-over graphic print**

- **RRP: £26.99**
- **Available from www.gerrysfishing.com**

MAJOR CRAFT HARDROCK CUSTOM TRAVEL ROD

The Hardrock Custom Travel was designed in collaboration with Major Craft Japan and Tacklewave. It is a versatile four piece travel rod that is a perfect companion at home or on your travels. The four-piece blank has a regular fast action and is perfect for working smaller hard baits and soft baits.

- **Length: 7ft 6in**
- **Casting: 5-25g**
- **Action: Regular Fast / Super Sensitive**
- **Supplied in protective travel case**
- **Travel length in case 67cm - out of case 62cm**
- **Perfect for general lure fishing**
- **Carbon blank**
- **Fuji K guides**
- **Fuji reel seat**
- **Ergonomic EVA Grip**

- **RRP: £169.99**
- **Available from www.rokmax.com**

FISHEAGLE FISH GRIPPERS

The problem with fish grippers is the ease with which they can cause a hole in the jaw of the fish. The design of the Fisheagle Fish Grip changes this, thanks to the secure but accommodating jaw width and protective tips. The gripper is rotatable which reduces the chance of the fish freeing itself, and features scales in the handle for quick and easy measurement, letting you get your catch back in the water as quickly as possible.

The Fish Grip is made from ultra-light aluminium with an anti-slip rubber handle meaning they are light and easy to use but strong. Available in 2 sizes: up to 28lb scale and up to 45lb scale.

- **RRP: £34.99**
- **Available from www.fishingmegastore.com**

WORKS AND PICTURES BY CHRIS KENNEDY

Chris Kennedy makes the case for why the Daiwa BG MQ offers the best value for money in its class of heavy-duty, mid-priced, fixed spool reels

BEST IN CLASS: THE DAIWA BG MQ

I've written previously about the fixed spool revolution and the technological advances made by Daiwa, particularly when it comes to making robust reels that will cope with the rigours and challenges of rough ground and large specimen fish in the UK and Ireland. I picked up the first interaction of the BG fixed spool with its Digigear back in around 2017. Since then, we've had a Magsealed version, which I also own in various sizes, and this was followed more recently by the BG MQ.

This article is looking at mid-price range options offering the best value for money. With a recommended retail price of £290 for the largest size you would be forgiven for thinking that these were at the higher end of the price range, however, the increase in inflation means many reels are significantly more expensive, with some costing around £1000. For a decent-quality multiplier or fixed spool, you'll have to lay out some serious cash these days if you are looking for quality, performance and longevity.

ONE PIECE

The MQ stands for the monocoque, meaning a one-piece body, as opposed to the older style reels, which were made of many pieces. This design, which also exists in the Saltist range and the Certate, offers a more solid feel when playing fish, giving greater strength. I am looking specifically at the 20,000 model, which replaces the old 8000 sizing, more or less in terms of line capacity. The application is mixed to rough ground fishing and species like tope, conger, huss, spurs, ling or common skate. The reel itself will take in excess of 500m of 79lb Daiwa J-Braid, though it is, of course, equally usable with monofilament. I prefer the low-diameter super braids which provide power and minimal drag in the wind or in fast tides.

DRAG

The first thing beyond the reel feeling bulletproof is that it is very smooth on the retrieve, as is the drag mechanism. The 20K models offers you a whopping 44lb (20kg) of drag, which is enough for anything in the UK. It's almost impossible for any man to fight at more than 30lb of drag for any sustained period on a beach caster, and if you run a test, most fight at a much lower level when using long rods; it's exhausting.

These reels offer more than enough for most anglers, aside from perhaps those chasing pelagic fish like bluefin tuna or having heavy use with sharks. If you need more, the Saltiga is still the best on earth for that. The Saltist MQ bridges the gap between the two.

PERFORMANCE

Most of the new Daiwa's now come with a traction band on the spool, so you no longer need to add monofilament backing before applying your braid, which is very handy. Once I had spooled these shiny new BG MQs up and strapped them to my rods, I absolutely loved the feel of them. The weight is not prohibitive, but I am very used to using robust, durable fixed spools for the challenges of rougher ground and large fish, which these are designed to cope with.

Fishing with them is a real pleasure; they feel absolutely solid when casting a 7oz lead and big bait, and they are so reassuring when playing fish up to the surface quickly. The monocoque frame is definitely a plus compared to the older-style reel bodies. The line lay is also decent for casting. For this type of reel slight improvements have filtered down from Daiwa's flagship models in terms of the spool design. I first spotted the reel earlier this year when fishing in Fuerteventura, when a friend was using one to play large

butterfly rays and stingers up to the surface in relatively deep water; the reels didn't miss a beat. The BG MQs performed admirably, landing fish in excess of 100lb. In my opinion they offer great value for money in today's inflation-sensitive market. I am still a big believer in buying once and having something that lasts over having to replace things at regular intervals.

At this price point, the BG MQs are better value than the competitor options, giving you a solid reel that will cope with any fish in UK waters, bar perhaps big tunas. I wouldn't want to use them regularly for porbeagles and similar labour-intensive fish but the BG MQs will be perfect for huss, conger, tope and even common skate. You can't go wrong. ■

■ **RRP: From £235**

SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL	RATION/CRANK	B / BLINE	CAPACITY	WGT.	DRAG
20BGMQ2500D-H	5.7:1 / 80cm	6	300m/0.16mm	235g / 8.3oz	10kg
20BGMQ3000D-XH	6.2:1 / 93cm	6	300m/0.18mm	265g / 9.3oz	10kg
20BGMQ4000D-XH	6.2:1 / 99cm	6	200m/0.20mm	285g / 10oz	12kg
20BGMQ5000D-H	5.7:1 / 96cm	6	300m/0.22mm	435g / 15.3oz	12kg
20BGMQ6000D-H	5.7:1 / 101cm	6	300m/0.24mm	430g / 15.2oz	12kg
20BGMQ8000-H	5.7:1 / 110cm	6	300m/0.28mm	635g / 22.4oz	15kg
20BGMQ10000-H	5.7:1 / 117cm	6	300m/0.33mm	640g / 22.5oz	15kg
20BGMQ14000-H	5.7:1 / 122cm	6	300m/0.35mm	640g / 22.5oz	15kg
20BGMQ18000	5.3:1 / 125cm	6	300m/0.42mm	865g / 30.5oz	20kg
20BGMQ20000	5.3:1 / 134cm	6	300m/0.51mm	860g / 30.3oz	20kg

Words and photography by LIAM GUNN

THE ULTIMATE TACKLE BOX ESSENTIALS?

Liam Gunn tests Spooligan's new range of gadgets aimed at making your fishing easier

I don't believe I'm alone in always tinkering with things and looking to refine and improve my beach fishing setup, looking for things to help make things more efficient. Every now and then I come across a clever new product that grabs my attention and stands out amongst the crowd. One of these is the Spooligan range, including the Holsta, Grippa and Adapta, which offer unique solutions that are designed to meet the diverse needs of modern shore anglers. These products allow the roving shore angler to adapt and streamline their equipment, thus making their fishing experience more enjoyable and earning their place in your tackle arsenal.

SPOOLIGAN HOLSTA: HANDS-FREE CONVENIENCE

The Spooligan Holsta is a versatile and convenient accessory holding tray that addresses a common problem faced by many anglers - keeping your essential baiting tools handy. Using this clever contraption, I no longer find myself scarpering over the rocks to try and find the nook or cranny that I have placed my bait elastic and scissors in - you get the idea! This innovative tray is designed with slots that will securely hold your bait elastic, baiting tools, scissors, knives and much more.

DESIGN AND FEATURES

The Holsta is crafted from a durable, high-quality material that will ensure longevity, lasting the test of time. The Holsta simply slots into the groove on the side of your existing seat box – most popular tackle boxes on the market will accommodate the Holsta such as TronixPro, Daiwa and, of course, Shakespeare seat boxes. Using it in this way is great: everything you need is to hand, and right at your seat box.

Features

- **Holds all your baiting tools**
- **Keeps tools perfectly to hand**
- **Slots to hold elastic, bait needles, scissors and more**
- **Works perfectly with other Spooligan products**
- **Clips on popular Shakespeare, Daiwa and Tronix Seat Boxes**
- **Made from tough material**
- **Available in Blue or Black with Orange details**

- **RRP: £19.99**

SPOOLIGAN ADAPTA

The Spooligan Adapta is a versatile adapter designed to provide multiple functions in a single, compact device. The Adapta is an angled mounting plate which has been purpose-designed to accommodate the Spooligan Holsta and is crafted from high-quality, ultra durable materials. The Adapta comes with Velcro straps to secure this adapter clip, allowing you to clip the Adapta on to a range of different surfaces. For a more permanent fixing you might want to swap out the Velcro straps and use cable ties instead. I like the fact that using the Velcro straps it can be swapped around depending on where I need it – talk about dynamic! The Adapta fits snuggly onto a 5/8" aluminium tube, which is most commonly used for a range of different accessories.

Using a combination of the Holsta and the Adapta allows you to secure the Holsta on items such as your tripod – I find it fits well on my Ian Gold's tripod – and the Adapta can be inverted depending on the angle which you would like the Holsta tray to sit at. Having everything you need at your tripod can be great, particularly during those busy sessions when you can't afford to leave the rod stand area in case a rod lunges over!

PORTABILITY

I must admit that I am fond of the portability of the Holsta; it is so lightweight and fits nicely in the seat box when stowed away. I used to carry a tripod net with me everywhere, but it had its down sides: in high winds it was a nightmare, and in Scotland there is seldom a day without that dreaded wind! The Holsta is a much better system for organising all the tools and bits I need to have at hand, plus it doesn't turn my tripod into a makeshift kite!

You can also mount these on the outside of a Bigaloo, or Igloo type-shelter, which would be great for those snotty weather days where you need to hunker down. A third option with this tool is that you can actually mount it on the back of your seatbox backrest conversion. The list of options as far as mounting these clever products knows no boundaries!

Features

- **Allows Holsta to be fitted to 5/8" tubes**
- **Angled mounting plate for the Spooligan Holsta**
- **Perfect to fit on rod rest legs, shelter frames or seat box backrest**
- **Helps to give perfect positioning of the Spooligan Holsta**
- **Ready fitted with Velcro securing straps**

- **RRP £12.99**

SPOOLIGAN GRIPPA: SECURE YOUR RODS

The Spooligan Grippa is another clever product and is a modern and upgraded rod rest head, designed to secure rods firmly in place.

DESIGN & FEATURES

The Grippa is made of a supple material that will accommodate rods of various diameters and simply slots snuggly onto standard tripod bars – such as Ian Golds and other popular tripod brands – and provides a secure, soft grip for beach rods.

I think the Grippa will be a huge hit, particularly with multiplier users, who commonly have the issue of the rods turning the wrong way while in the rest, and ending up 'upside down' in the rod rest with the reels the wrong way – although I am a fixed spool user these days, I can only imagine how excited multiplier users might get when they see how snug these grippas are.

I always have a fear of a large fish, or tide, pulling my expensive rods and reels out the stand; these rod holders greatly reduce the risk of that happening. They also have an angled grip, so if you like to lean your rod on the stand backwards, while you bait up, change rigs or deal with fish, then you still have secure support for your rod.

As a fixed spool user, a pet peeve of mine has always been having to make sure my line sits below the tripod bar while in the rod rest; this allows the line to run freely if a spritely fish is on the take. The Adapta has multiple grooves cut into the inside of the head to accommodate different angles, meaning that the line can be placed within the rest head. This means I can instantly pick the rod up and strike; there is no need to ensure the line is not trapped behind the tripod bar. For me, this small feature is a stroke of genius and I really appreciate the level of detail that has clearly gone into this product. The Grippa is available in a low diameter, LDM option which will accommodate rods up to 24mm in diameter, but is also available in a larger size, accommodating more beefy rods up to 28mm diameter. For the single-rod match angler there is also the Grippa Solo which fits into the V angle on popular tripods, and is available in LDM and standard sizing.

Features

- **Upgraded rod rest head**
- **Low diameter and standard options available**
- **Fits rods up to 28mm in diameter**
- **Improved rod support**
- **Positive yet soft grip**
- **Helps to keep multiplier reels the right way up**
- **Greatly reduces the risk of your rod being pulled or knocked off the rod stand**
- **Less likely to scratch your rod than standard plastic heads**
- **Also grips rod if leant 'backwards' on the rod stand**
- **Fits standard bar as used on Ian Golds and other popular rod rests**
- **Available in black or orange**

- **RRP £11.99**

CONCLUSION

The Spooligan range, including the Holsta, Grippa and Adapta, offers innovative and practical solutions that can significantly enhance your fishing experience. These products are designed by anglers, with the 'thinking' angler in mind, providing convenience, efficiency and reliability. Hats off to the clever clogs at Spooligan HQ! All products are available from www.veals.co.uk

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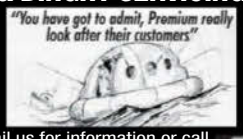

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WORDS AND PICTURES
RODNEY GOODSHIP

RODNEY GOODSHIP'S

REEL CARE TIPS

When your reel fails it's not going to be catching a dab or whiting; it will be on a fish of a lifetime, or even a PB. Rodney Goodship explains how to keep your reel in peak condition for when you need it most

For over 12 years I have been running the repair, service and warranty centre for Seigler Reels US here in the UK. I've seen the good, the bad and the ugly of UK fishing reels. The range has astonished me: from the perfect reels in for a full service at the end of the season, to the seized solid, stored in a bag in the shed at the start of the season. The one thing I tell all my customers: bad reels never get better all on their own. If something is wrong, get it sorted sooner rather than later.

RUST

The number one killer of fishing reels is rust. After every trip you must clean your reels as soon as you can. How you do it is up to you: from full immersion to just a spray or under a running tap. All are fine but you must then dry the reel too. Shaking is good, as is drying in the sun. A hair dryer works well too. Then, when, and only when, you are sure its 100 per cent dry, give it a good spray with WD 40 or a light oil. Every few days it helps to spin the reel and work the drag just to keep it all moving. Dry, warm storage is also the number one tip for long reel life. Storing reels in a shoebox in the airing cupboard is the best place I have found, or near your hot water tank but never in a neoprene bag: a real reel killer!

All this will keep rust at bay and extend the reel life. However, all metals rust, even stainless and hybrid ceramics will rust, so to make sure you've got no hidden corrosion, take the reel apart and look for rust and treat with a good reel grease. If you feel able and confident to try a service here are a few tips.

1. Some bearings come out easily and some are pigs, but they do need to come out and be checked. Clean with a good de-greaser or lighter fuel and dry.

2. If they don't run smoothly replace them. Bad bearings never get better.

3. Pack the new ones with grease but don't overfill. Grease is very good at stopping galvanic corrosion where stainless steel screws are going into aluminium bodies. Even better, replace the screws with aluminium ones.

If you get stuck with a service just send all the parts to a service centre and they will sort you out. I regularly get a bag of bits! Photos as you are taking it apart help as well. When you are buying bearings you get what you pay for. Cheap bearings are cheap for a reason.

PUMP & WIND

The number two killer of reels is misuse. Modern reels have high ratios up to 7 to 1, high drags up to 50lb, and power handles. You will often see the reels being used as small winches. To get the high speeds the makers use smaller pinion gears. If you think about how gears work, only one tooth is in perfect position at any one time. The gear can be as small as 10mm and the tooth 1mm. All this power goes through a very small piece of metal. Don't put the rod in the holder on the gunnel and use the reel as a winch! Use the rod, not the reel, to beat the fish. "Pump and wind, don't grind", is often heard on my boat. I am now replacing more and more pinion gears as this misuse causes wear and also affects the drag setting as well.

DRAG

Drag settings should be 20 to 30 per cent of the line strength. A fish will tire better taking line and it has been proven that the second run will always be less than the first. Make a big fish work. The build-up of lactic acid in the fish will get the job done. Just remember to keep tension on the rod/reel when you pump and wind so not to lose line on the reel.

Another one that makes me laugh at the service centre is where the complaint is the drag is not working. Guess what? The line is slipping around the spool as there is no backing. Always use tape on the spool then 20 to 30 yards of mono backing. Fill, but don't over fill, with braid as tight as you can. Use a heavy weight on the bottom, or troll a weight on the way out to your fishing grounds, to get as much tension in the spooled braid as possible. ■

WORDS BY TIM MACPHERSON

BEST OF THE BOAT SHOW

The Southampton International Boat Show is always a great opportunity to have a look at some of the newest boats, engines, electronics and gadgets available for boat fishing. Tim Macpherson reports on some of the most interesting new products on the market

BOATS

The centre point of the show – with plenty of choice on offer. The **Orkney 592 Centre Console** is a new boat on the block. Orkney have been producing excellent angling boats – built on a more traditional hull shape and they have now launched a new centre console model – which are becoming more popular amongst many sports fishermen. The new 592 is designed to run offshore in comfort. Its Nelson heritage is apparent in the way the hull handles rough water with ease. The 27" interior freeboard and self-draining cockpit add to the feeling of safety and security.
www.orkneyboats.com

Anglers are increasingly turning to small more portable SIBS and plastic boats. Amongst the variety on display was the **Roto-Tech Kontra 450**. Its hull profile combines the advantages of a RIB sponson with the convenience of a spacious displacement boat - combining space, stability, seakeeping and performance. The high and fine bow combined with underwater hull profile ensures a dry and smooth ride making for a very capable craft in all conditions. It has a double-shell construction with many buoyancy chambers, meaning it is practically unsinkable. The 450 is a modern and multi-purpose boat, made of polyethylene - a material completely recyclable, resistant to weather and mechanical damage.
www.specialistsmallcraft.co.uk

Another interesting portable angling boat is the **Milha Boat from Zego Marine**. This is a cracking little angling platform – good for inshore and estuary fishing. Billed as a hybrid kayak/boat it is lightweight and the unique design and capacious in board storage are a major selling point for this one-person boat which takes a 6hp outboard or electric motor. A good option if you're after a lightweight, easy to launch affordable boat. Available from
www.milhaboat.co.uk

Aluminium boats are also becoming more popular with anglers and the **Norden 600**, this year featured on the Suzuki stand, has the same hull design as the Smart Fish. The version on show had the complete package including a Suzuki engine. The boat has a forward open cabin fitted with 3D Craft seats. It's a fast, stable boat which can get up to speeds of over 30 knots, although in the test zone we could only get up to 10 knots. It includes lots of excellent storage space and a 40l live bait tank. Rod holders and all the usual accessories are included and it's a very spacious boat that comes with non-slip flooring.
www.3dcraftboatsuk.com

ELECTRONICS

It's been a relatively quiet year for new marine electronics products with the big players introducing some interesting upgrades, accessories and additions. Raymarine were showing their **Axiom 2 pro and 2 XL**, both of which are a solid upgrade on this popular fishfinder/chartplotter, while on the Garmin stand we got a demonstration of the new **GC 245 and GC 255 marine deck cameras** (featured elsewhere in this issue) and Lowrance were featuring their **Ghost trolling motor**, not new but still an excellent angling product for those who fish in areas where stealth is essential.

ENGINES AND ACCESSORIES

There were lots of electric outboards to see and one which caught the eye was the range of **Temo portable electric engines** designed for all sorts of boats. They are reliable, durable and very easy to use and are an ultra-light and powerful propulsion solution. www.temofrance.co.uk

The **ThrustMe Kicker** Outboard is a cutting-edge outboard motor. Lightweight and compact it has a fully enclosed propeller powered by a 1000w brushless motor coupled with an integrated 259Wh lithium battery. At only 4.5kg its light and at £1000 RRP it's worth looking at for inshore angling where stealth is important. From £1000 at www.thrustme.uk.

Garmin had their electric trolling motors on display, while BHG were showing their lightweight **Prop Guards**, a strong and non-corroding poly carbonate injection moulded two-part safety cage that helps protects your propeller (and you from your propeller). The two halves bolt onto your engine cavitation plate and skeg and can be fitted with basic tools within 30 minutes. The 13" Blue Prop Guard is suitable for most outboard motors from 40-60hp, and all propellers up to 13" in diameter (not pitch!). £275 from www.bhg-marine.co.uk

Suzuki had the Suzuki Fishing Team on their stand with the Shimano fishing simulator – always great fun as visitors are challenged to simulate fighting big game fish including bluefin tuna. The team had two boats showcasing the latest **Suzuki DF300B** engine and the **DF250 Kuro**, which was launched earlier in the year and is notable for its special matt black finish. They were also showcasing their engines on a variety of boats including Ultimate Boats, Wetwheels' Cheetah Cat, Island RIBs and Excel Marine.

As always there is a large selection of waterproof clothing on show but **Mustang Survival**, who also produce their excellent **Atlas Pro Sensor** lifejacket, have some excellent lightweight angling apparel, the newest being their **Essential Taku** waterproof jacket. Waterproof and breathable with 3-layer MarineSpec SP fabric used throughout, it is abrasion, saltwater and UV resistant. Sealed seams and YKK® AQUAGUARD® zippers protect against rain and spray, and the drop hood cinches tight when the wind picks up. Fleece-lined pockets keep hands toasty, and an internal chest pocket holds your valuables. The draw-cord hem adjusts for a customised fit. www.mustang-survival.co.uk

Words and pictures
JIM WHIPPY

NEW SERIES EXCLUSIVELY for Sea Angler!

Whippy's WORLD

Jim ponders on the lack of mackerel, the arrival of bluefin tuna in East Sussex, and whether the whiting or cod will turn up this autumn

Lucky G' is jointly owned by me, Ross Parsons and the former editor of Saltwater Boat Angling, Tim Macpherson. Tim had not been out in the boat since our first trip of the year at the beginning of May when we were towed back by the Eastbourne Lifeboat after our cutout switch shorted out about three miles off Bexhill. He had done plenty of fishing since but not out with Ross and I, so it was important to find him some fish. We were fortunate to get a few mackerel and with the squid we had taken with us we decided to anchor up and go for bream. The bream were there in numbers and we enjoyed some light tackle fun with them. Then Ross hooked a tope on his bream gear and had some fun as it shot off in all directions. Both Tim and I then hooked similar sized fish around the 12lb mark. Tim was a happy man with a bag of good bream and the tope action.

NO SHOW

When the mackerel didn't arrive off Eastbourne beaches through June and July, we all thought they would be here in August, but they still didn't show. Now we are into September and they have still not shown up, apart from the odd shoal. It's getting serious as so many other species follow them and the

whitebait they are feeding on. Even out in the boats the lack of mackerel has become a concern. I know some people will find a shoal and think the sea is full of them, but it's not reflected over the wider area. Even commercially the lack of our main bait fish is shown up by the price of mackerel in the fish shops. Normally at this time of the year the price drops dramatically, but the current shop price is still around £5.50 a kilo.

Now there are reports coming out from Brighton that as many as 11 bluefin tuna have been caught from the port in mid-September. This is hundreds of miles east of the Cornish grounds they have been showing up in over the last few years. Some anglers are concerned that the number of tuna around has contributed to the loss of the mackerel shoals. Another theory is that the numerous super trawlers in the channel are hoovering them up.

HOUNDS AND EELS

The results from our recent club competitions have been very similar with just small eels, a thornback ray and the odd flatty caught in the first two-and-a-half hours. Then one or two smoothhounds on the very last casts taking the top spots. This is because most of our evening matches finish well before high tide when the bigger fish move inshore.

I have often been asked why not fish later in the tide to include the high tide. To organise matches to suit all situations is not easy. A number of things have got to be taken into consideration: length of tide enabling bait to be pumped, avoiding weekend matches and finishing at 10pm so it's not too late for those working the next day. Getting all those things to match up only happens around twice a month which is why competition fishing, where you must conform to either certain areas or maybe fish on drawn pegs, is so different to pleasure fishing when you can choose your time and venue to suit.

Last year a few codling turned up at the beginning of September and everyone got excited about a possible good winter's cod fishing. It didn't last and a couple of weeks later they had gone. Once again, they have shown up in early September; the question is will they stay around this year to give us some winter sport or are we destined to spend our time over-run by pesky whiting?

GRANDSON'S TRIP

I managed to find a window in the weather to take one of my grandsons out in 'Lucky G' before he starts Uni. Ben brought has mate Matt along with him who had never fished from a boat before. Having told them the plan was to catch them a tope they were very excited. Everything looked perfect; the tide was right, weather excellent, but there was a problem, we couldn't find a mackerel. First, we tried close in to the harbour where they sometimes shoal up, then at two miles, four miles and six miles out, all to no avail. We eventually caught a few small bream and pout on some old lugworm that I brought with me. I rigged up a whole pout for conger or tope but by this time the tide had dropped away and nothing took our offerings. The boys enjoyed the day, but I was left very frustrated wanting to give them a day to remember and with a few fresh mackerel we would have had some good sport. I will have to get them out again if the opportunity arises and the mackerel show up.

E-BIKE

Recently I bought an e-bike to use for fishing some of the more difficult spots to get to. At first I carried my rod bag over my shoulder until it started to slip around and ended up catching against parked vehicles such as vans and camper vans, while the bottom end poked out into the road. What I needed was some sort of tube fitted to the bike that I could slide the rod bag into. I ended up with one of Eastbourne tackle dealer, Tony Kirridge's, prototype rod bags with a fish measure on the side that I cut in half and bungee clipped to the wheel frame and rack above the battery. This leaves me free to have a bright orange backpack with my tackle on my back and the rod in the tube. It has proved to be a much safer option. The roads are not very safe, so I have set up three back lights, one flashing and two front lights. To these I add a spare headlight making me look like Blackpool illuminations as I travel home late at night.

POOR FINISH

Basically, I am, like most anglers, an optimist; but this summer I have had my faith put to the test. The last four shore sessions have had resulted in three blanks and one small conger eel. I have got to the point where I will welcome the whiting back! Mind you, that feeling won't last too long. Maybe they will be absent this autumn as the mackerel have been all summer. That would be fine if some decent codling come along to take their place. Short tides can make fishing harder from the shore and this year we have had a run of them for the past three weeks. Maybe the bigger tides will shake everything up and keep those rod tips twitching. ■

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WORDS BY
PHILL WILLIAMS

EXTRACTS FROM

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE YESTERDAY

NEW SERIES

You Should Have Been Here Yesterday is a book by Phill Williams documenting sea angling in the UK throughout the 20th century. It is considered to be the most comprehensive history of UK sea angling ever compiled. This month we start a new series bringing you extracts from the book. We begin with the early years and development of GPS, and why boat anglers owe a debt of gratitude to one Professor Albert Einstein!

You have to be of my generation or older to appreciate the degree of influence GPS both has, and continues to play, in all our lives on a number of levels. The old land-based transmitters which were used to operate Decca, and later, Navstar were unreliable due to weather, atmospherics and positioning of the beacons, to the point where at times you really would be fishing blind. Then along came the GPS system, which itself was problematic in the early days until the Americans decided to give us the full, undiluted version. However, without the brilliance of one Albert Einstein more than 100 years earlier, GPS would probably have been no better than the systems it replaced.

REMEMBER THE 2000D?

The early days of electronic navigation were reliant on land-based signal stations. When wreck fishing began hitting the headlines during the 1960s and early 1970s it was facilitated by Decca, which came in a progression of updated versions over time. Next came the Navstar 2000D, which for a small boat angler like me was the first time I, and many others like me, had access to accurate navigation. Phillips also produced a similar instrument, but it was the Navstar

that grabbed all the headlines, and presumably the bulk of the sales. The Navstar and Phillips weren't so much improvements on Decca, but cheaper, easier to use variants of it, converting the Decca signal into latitude and longitude – though the Decca numbers could also be displayed and used from it if preferred. Like Decca, the Navstar and all other incarnations of machines using land-based Decca signals, it was prone to inaccuracies caused by climatic conditions, plus potential shut downs for maintenance or repair purposes.

COLD WAR INFLUENCE

Such inaccuracies and encumbrances had to be borne by sailors and fishermen. But for military purposes, only the best was good enough. Particularly after the Russians had put Sputnik into orbit in 1957, demonstrating not only a technological superiority over the West at the time, but that, if orbiting satellites could be tracked from the ground, such as the US military had done with Sputnik, then the reverse was also potentially possible, allowing people or objects on the ground to be tracked by satellites, and with that the race to build a fully functional satellite navigation system was on.

This also triggered the race to provide satellite navigation to non-military users, a race the Magellan Corporation claimed to have won in 1989 with a handheld device called the Magellan NAV 1000. However, fearing GPS might also be used by America's adversaries, the US Defence Department deliberately downgraded the signal accuracy of the system which, while it was both way better and way more reliable than the alternative land-based systems, still fell some way short of the accuracy we all enjoy today.

GPS for 'the masses' became a reality following the shooting down of Korean Airlines Flight 007 by the Russian military in September 1983, killing all 269 passengers and crew on board. The Russians had mistakenly identified the passenger jet as a spy plane after it had strayed off course into Soviet airspace due to the fallibility of the navigation systems used by civilian aircraft during the early 1980s.

At the time, the US had an early version of GPS operating from around a dozen satellites. Fearing it might fall into the wrong hands, and be used against them by adversaries, they had deliberately downgraded the signals for civilian use, including civil air travel. The Korean airliner tragedy triggered a sudden change in this policy. President Regan ordered the higher signal quality to be made available to everybody when the next overhaul of the system was put in place. The world at large would finally get access to GPS operating at full strength. What's more, it would be available for free.

It took 10 years and more than $10 billion for the second version of GPS to come online as promised. As you might expect, the US military continued (and continue) to work on improving what everybody now has access to. Finally, in 1995, Roger L. Easton, Ivan A. Getting and Bradford Parkinson delivered the GPS that offshore sea anglers know and love today; providing the reliable military grade precision requiring a 'constellation' of 27 satellites (24 in use with three spares), a figure that has since risen to 31, each orbiting the Earth twice daily forming a network from which any four need to be in line of sight of a ground-based receiver at any one time.

This in turn allows receivers carried in vehicles on the ground, in the air or at sea, to interpret a precise set of location coordinates by measuring the transmission times of radio signals from these satellites, with the proviso that Albert Einstein's 1905 calculation for relativity is built into the transmitted result to take account of the fact that time passes at different rates depending on the mass of objects such the Earth being in close proximity to the orbiting atomic clocks.

The system obviously is in a constant state of improvement and upgrade. In 1998, Vice President Al Gore announced plans to make the GPS satellites transmit two additional signals to be used for civilian applications, aimed in particular at improving aircraft safety. This was implemented in 2000. Also in 2000, just before departing office, President Bill Clinton decided to get rid of selective availability.

The powerful degradation of GPS put in place just before the first Gulf War was removed, making it as much as 10 times more accurate at a stroke. Following this, in 2005, the first 'Block II' satellites were sent up to join the GPS constellation, followed by the 'Block III' satellites for availability in 2014. And throughout, the US Airforce, which manages the military GPS system, has endeavoured to keep at least 24 satellites available for at least 95 per cent of the time, which is good news for sea anglers and bad news for the fish the system undoubtedly helps us to locate.

E=MC2

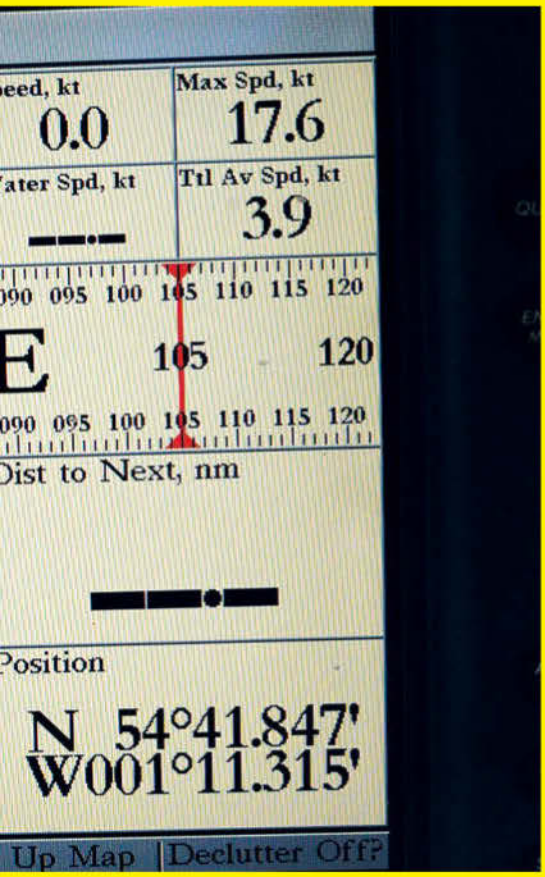
You don't have to be Albert Einstein to catch fish, but you do need to have had the internationally acclaimed mathematical genius to realise the benefits of the advanced navigation which goes hand in glove with the level of offshore boat fishing and maritime safety we currently enjoy today. For without his 1905 theory of Special Relativity where energy equals mass times the speed of light squared (E = mc2), and more importantly for offshore sea anglers, his subsequent linked theory of General Relativity 10 years later in 1915, we wouldn't enjoy the repeat accuracy of electronic navigation we see today.

Without this, the Global Positioning System (GPS) we now rely on for so many things, including finding fishing marks and the repeatability to return to them at will, simply could not operate. Without Einstein's equations, GPS would literally be obsolete within days. Okay, so we would still have other less accurate forms of electronic navigation. But surely nobody who has ever used and relied on Decca or similar land-based systems would want to go back to the days of unreliability caused by atmospheric variables, signal station failures or close downs for essential maintenance and repairs?

For GPS to maintain the level of precision we currently enjoy, the 'ticks' from GPS satellite atomic clocks must be known to an accuracy of 20-30 nanoseconds, a nanosecond being one billionth of a second. Because the satellites are constantly moving relative to observers on the Earth, effects predicted by Einstein's theory of General Relativity must be taken into account to achieve this required 20-30 nanosecond accuracy.

It all boils down to how an observer on the ground sees the satellites in motion

"President Regan ordered the higher signal quality to be made available to everybody when the next overhaul of the system was put in place. The World at large would finally get access to GPS operating at full strength. What's more, it would be available for free"



relative to themselves. Special Relativity predicts that we should see these clocks ticking more slowly causing the onboard atomic clocks to fall behind identical clocks on the ground by about 7 microseconds (7 one millionths of a second) per day because of the slower ticking rate due to the time dilation effect of their relative motion.

GPS satellites are positioned in orbits 20,000km above the Earth where, due to the Earth's mass, the curvature of spacetime due to gravity is less than it is at the Earth's surface. General Relativity predicts that the clocks onboard satellites close to a massive object, like the Earth, will seem to tick more slowly than those located further away. As such, when viewed from the surface of the Earth, the clocks on these satellites appear to be ticking faster than identical clocks on the ground.

Calculations using General Relativity predict that the clocks in our GPS satellites will get ahead of ground-based clocks by 45 microseconds per day, and that the combination of these two effects means that GPS satellite clocks should tick faster than identical clocks on the ground by about 38 microseconds per day. While it might sound insignificant – bearing in mind the level of precision required here – 38 microseconds equates to 10 kilometres a day! This is why engineers who design these satellite systems program in Einstein's predictions before you or I use our GPS systems to accurately locate our fishing marks! ■

WHAT'S ON

Your at-a-glance match events planner ● = Penn Sea League

OCTOBER

● **12:** Southern League round 10 of 12 & open, Goring, 5-10pm, pegged, measure & return, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2022 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, book only, Darren 07919 073232, Mike 07983 579596, Ian 07736 004714 or Ant 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com

● **12:** Holyhead & District Angling club, Tom Lynch Open Sea Angling Competition, by kind permission of Stena line UK fishing 1230-1630pm £20 entry, Live Facebook peg draw 9/10/2024 7pm, PayPal: Holyheadangling@yahoo.com - Friends & Family. Limited to 80 pegs, pre book, all senior anglers to fish outside wall. No minimum size limits, straight measure, all dogfish 50cm rays, smoothhound and bullhuss measured noses to tail. All junior anglers to fish FOC on pegs allocated on inside of breakwater - junior anglers may receive help from an adult, but must be able to cast and retrieve unaided. All prizes will be confirmed on payment cut off 4th October 6pm - only payment guarantees entrance. Presentation at Holyhead hotspurs football club - LL65 2YE

● **13:** South Wales Sea Anglers Open Cardiff Foreshore Rob Cole 07792 456428

● **13:** Weston Outcasts SAC, Burnham-on-Sea, Open competition. Sign on: The Lighthouse Inn, Burnham-on-Sea from 11am TA8 1LN, fishing: 1-6pm. Presentation: Lighthouse Inn, Burnham-on-Sea. Entry: £20 includes flatfish pool. Rules: 1 rod 3 hooks, 18cm size limit on all species: catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight (heaviest bag). No tripods allowed on the beach prior to sign on. Contact Jason Brown for more information: 07792 292858

● **13:** East Coast Warrior Open, 10-4, scales down 5pm, weigh in at Marine pub Hornsea. Pre booking at Eastcoast tackle and Westlands. Tickets on the day from 7.30am at Lyndsy's cafe (formerly Lilys). Entry £10 senior, £5 junior. Biggest fish 5 places, biggest whiting, biggest flattie. Boundaries Sewerby steps to Humber bridge north bank.

● **13:** East Anglian Sea League, teams of five and open, venue TBC, length to weigh conversion, £25 entry, juniors must be accompanied by an adult, pre-book only with Rob Tuck 07855 848967

● **13**: Welsh Flounder and Bass Competition Senior & Junior, Loughor estuary 12am to 5 pm, £1000 1st prize. Any enquiries 01792 875050 or 07970 404522 Brian Country Stores

● **17:** David Neil Bait Supplies Shore League Match 2, Irvine 6.06pm low. All matches are open to everyone, pre book only. Fishing is 7pm until 10pm, peg draw 6.15. Details from David Neil 07831 192717

● **18:** Edinburgh Winter Shore League, Newhaven (east), Reg 6-6.15pm @ Western Harbour View, EH6 6PG, fish 7-10pm, pre-book only. Contact Ian 07907 805 822

● **18-19:** Anyfish Anywhere 2-day event Llandudno Julian Shambrook 01803213555

● **19:** West Cork & District Open, Youghal Beach, 6-10pm, check-in Clay castle car park 4:30pm, contact sodonovan6@gmail.com

● **19-20:** Hastings SAC 2 day open 9.30-2.30pm day 1 and 10-3pm day 2, lug, fish, squid baits only, Mark Rogers 07770 973062, Colin Crosby 07971 252652, colinmichael123@gmail.com

● **20:** Irish Federation of Sea Anglers, 4-8pm Rossbeigh, check-in at the car park, entry; senior 15eur and junior 10eur contact: Chris O'Sullivan 08515 32770

● **20:** RNLI Open, 70 Peg Limit, Middle Lane Ulverston. Booking on Kingfisher Car Park, Ulverston LA12 9RA. Booking on 10.30am to 11.30am. Fishing 12.30pm to 15.30pm. Total length, Pegged match, 3 zones, concession and family pegs available, entry fee via bank transfer £20 senior, £10 junior. Tied positions done on count back, email ffabeach2020@gmail.com

● **20:** Northumbrian open, £12 entry, fishing 10:30 - 14:30 weigh-in Bank House club, Newbiggin. Boundaries Tynemouth pier to sea houses south pier, all piers, rivers and estuaries excluded. Contact Steve Surtees 07888 674873

● **20:** Aldeburgh Blind Charity open, Aldeburgh beaches, fishing 10-3pm, £25 entry, no white rag or edible crab, presentation at Old Generating station, contact Paul Harrison 07788 860562

● **25:** Edinburgh Winter Shore League, Joppa, Reg 6-6.15pm @ Promenade View, EH15 2ES, fish 7-10pm. Pre-book only, contact Ian Campbell 07907 805822

● **26-27:** Northern Ireland Federation of Sea Anglers 2 Day Open, East Antrim coast. Booking in on Friday at the Curran Court Hotel, Larne, Co Antrim 6-8pm. Pegged match. Entry £60 +£10 federation fee. First prize £1200 with zones and overalls down to 10th cash and sponsored prizes. Contact Harry McKee on nifederationofseaanglers@gmail.com to book in.

● **27:** Reel Fun Fishing: Burnham League & Opens, 3 Match Series (all results count), meet and draw 9.30am, fishing 11am - 4pm, £30 League entry (pre-pay at Reel Fun), 100 per cent pay-out top 8 anglers, £20 entry per match (100 per cent pay-out), zone prizes, heaviest fish and winner's bonus, all pegged & zoned (3 zones), maximum 60 pegs available, 1 rod 3 hooks, 18cm size limit on all species: catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight (heaviest bag). No bait restrictions. Pre-book only: contact Reel Fun Fishing 01275 848652

● **27:** Breakaway Open, Felixstowe, booking in Felixstowe Club House 8 - 9 IP11 2EL, pegged match, £20 all in. Contact Matt - Ipswich Sea Angling Club TXT 07810 564399

● **27:** Daiwa open 2024 10-4pm, weigh in 4-5pm, Northfield Country Club, Withernsea HU19 2BT, scales down 5pm prompt. Heaviest fish competition, £2000 first prize. Boundaries Bridlington North beach to the Humber bridge. Entry fee £15 for adults, juniors £10 for junior prizes only or £15 all in. Postal pre book with Jonny Vickers 07595 484619 or email daiwaopen@gmail.com or register on the day 7:30 – 9:30 at the Northfield country club Withernsea HU19 2BT. Or tickets can be purchased from the following: East Coast Tackle Tansterne, Hull Angling Centre Hull, Holderness Hardware Withernsea, Coso's Tackle Scarborough, Westlands Angling Centre - Sigglethorne, Quids in bait and tackle Hull, Squids in Sea baits Goxhill

NOVEMBER

● **2:** WCAC Open Rover, 5-9pm Minehead to Blue Anchor. Book in, sign on and presentation at the Royal British Legion, Watchet TA23 0AR. For more info contact Steve, West Coast Angling Centre, Watchet 01984 634807

● **2-3:** SAMF Teams of Five, Deal and Hythe, pre-book, qualifying teams only to Rob Tuck 07855 848967

● **3:** Seaham Angling Club Seaham Open, fishing 12-5pm, for more information contact: Anthony Price 07434 589493

● **3:** John Smiths open sponsored by the Station Hotel, fishing 9-2pm, weigh-in for 3pm, Station Hotel, Church Street, Filey, heaviest single fish match, £15 entry, £2 juniors, contact Scott Blowman 07934 049126

● **3:** West Bay Sea Angling Club, 49th Chesil Championship, supported by The Angling Centre, West Bay, West Bexington and Abbotsbury, 11-5pm. Sign-on from 9:00am at Bridport Football Club DT6 5LA. Entry fee: seniors £20, juniors £10, Optional Super Pool £5 1st, 2nd, 3rd most points. Match is Measure & Return (SAMF length to points). No setting up before signing on. First prize: £300 (Most Points), 2nd prize: £200, 3rd prize £100, Ladies' prize £50, Junior prize: £25 Voucher (ladies & juniors can win major prizes as well). For more information phone The Angling Centre on 01308 421800

● **7:** David Neil Bait Supplies Shore League Match 3, Ardrossan South Beach, 9.09pm low. All matches are open to everyone, pre book only. Fishing is 7pm until 10pm, peg draw 6.15. Details from David Neil 07831 192717

● **8:** Edinburgh Winter Shore League, Newhaven (west), Reg 6-6.15pm at Western Harbour Breakwater EH6 6PA, fish 7-10pm. Pre-book only, contact Ian Campbell 07907 805822

● **9-10:** Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers, Ian Reid Memorial. For more details and to book a peg please contact Chris Horn 0787294480

● **10:** Penarth SAC Open Penarth Bob Galley 02920 706995

● **10:** Leinster League Roney Point, 1-6 contact Alby Allan for details albertallan@hotmail.com

2024 PENN SEA LEAGUE

ANGLING TRUST

Congratulations to the 416 anglers who have scored Penn Sea League points since January 1st. Here's the full leader board for 2024 so far. Those names highlighted in blue are all registered for the 2024 league and prizes. Don't forget, if you wish to be eligible for prizes, and potentially fish the grand final in 2025, you need to register via the Angling Trust website

1st	Saul Page	Deal	121
2nd	Shaun Moore	Cardiff	60
3rd	Sam Collier	Deal	53
4th	Gareth Griffiths	B.Furness	51
5th	Wayne Leason	Hull	50
6th	Ben Bradstock	Honiton	46
7th	Neil Cutler	Gateshead	38
8th	D. Shorthouse	Kettering	37
	Mark Taylor	Grimsby	37
	Nathan Elliott	Dover	37
11th	Ben Price	Holyhead	34
12th	Dave Wade	Hove	32
	Richard Yates	St Marg Bay	32
	S. Moore	Hartlepool	32
	Shaun Tucker	Swansea	32
16th	Allan Hughes	Holyhead	31
	George Smith	Grimsby	31
	Shane Russell	Old Colwyn	31
19th	Louie Smith	Deal	30
20th	Ged Stevens	Bar in Furness	29
	Martyn Wilding	Scarborough	29
22nd	Steve Potts	Gosforth	28
23rd	Steve Adams	Chelmondiston	27
	T. Roberts	Holyhead	27
25th	Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	26
	Tommy Tate	Sunderland	26
	Troy Francis	Killarney	26
28th	Darren Bond	Lancing	25
	Paul Kemp	Hull	25
30th	D. Newland	Ryde	23
	Tom Wells	Deal	23
32nd	Dan Mogridge	Portsmouth	22
	Kevin Warner	Horncastle	22
34th	Darren Browne	South Shields	20
	Joe Wales	Shoreham	20
	Mel McIntyre		20
37th	Alan Price	Rhyl	19
	Chris Guthrie	Cramlington	19
	Garry Hutson	Cleethorpes	19
40th	Gavin Owen	Connsett	19
	Matt White	Lancaster	19
	Mike Kyle	Easthouses	19
	Richard Burt	Clacton	19
44th	A. Dugdale	Peel	18
	Ben Laws	Whitby	18
	Daniel Crump	Barry	18
	Dave Lane	Weymouth	18
	D. Llewelyn	Barry	18
	David Cooper	Edinburgh	18
	Jason Brown	Bridgwater	18
	Keith Smith	Blyth	18
	Lloyd Summers	Caerphilly	18
	Wayne Davison	Thornton	18
54th	D. Richardson		17
	Dean Francis	Yeovil	17
	Gordon Blyth	Patrington	17
	Ian Dancey	Waterlooville	17
	John Johnson	Minehead	17
	Nick Westgarth	Stockton on Tees	17
	Peter Hammond	Ferryside	17
61st	A. Chester	Hedon	16
	Dave Cave	Holyhead	16
	Deano Ryan	Portsmouth	16
	Matty Sabiston	Grimsby	16
	M. Lazenby		16
66th	Adam Farmer	Penarth	15
	Adam Johnson	South Shields	15
	Ben Arnold	Brighton	15
	Craig Maddock	Caerphilly	15
	Dewi Parry	Gwalchmai	15
	Gareth Gardiner	Sunderland	15
	N. Charlesworth	Hornsea	15
	Paddy Kerrigan	Jarrow	15
	Paul Molyneux	Upholland	15
	Paul Smith	South Shields	15
	Ray Shepherd	Hedon	15
	Richard Dorgan	Bristol	15
	Steve Williams	Jarrow	15
	Till Hall	Bath	15
90th	Dave Wilson	Hornsea	14
	Frank Potter		14

TOP SCORERS – AUGUST 2024

This month's winner was Paul Molyneux with 13 points from one event. Remember, to win the monthly prize you need to be registered.

1st	Paul Molyneux	Upholland	13
	Neil Cutler	Gateshead	13
3rd	Dave Morris	Deal	12
4th	George Smith	Grimsby	11
	Steve Potts	Gosforth	11
6th	Chris Fiatal	Ormsby	10
	Gareth Griffiths	Bar in Furness	10
8th	David Neil	Saltcoats	9
	John Phillips		9
	Paul McIntyre	Jarrow	9
11th	Gavin Parker	Wallasey	8
	Mike Kyle	Easthouses	8
	Shaun Tucker	Swansea	8
14th	Adam Johnson	South Shields	7
	D. Llewelyn	Barry	7
	Gareth Gardiner	Sunderland	7
	Kevin Warner	Horncastle	7
	W Harriman		7
19th	Carl Greenhow		6
	Gary Parsons	Bridgend	6
	Gavin Owen	Consett	6
22nd	David Cooper	Edinburgh	5
	Kenny McCoy	Sunderland	5
	Steve Rapka		5

HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes the points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three plus section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match. Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue. If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the Angling Trust. An angler can win only one reel during the year. To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email. Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to Ian Bowell: ian.bowell@icloud.com

NEXT ISSUE

BLUEFIN SPECIAL

- A SPECIAL ON THE FIRST EVER UK RECREATIONAL FISHING SEASON SO FAR
- THE UK BLUEFIN TUNA CHAMPIONSHIP
- TACKLING-UP FOR TUNA: THE KIT YOU NEED

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Tip Tornado Graphex Match 13' 6" / 125-175g Mixed - Smooth	£635.00	£554.99
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch LD 13' / 50-150g Mixed - Smooth	£610.00	£534.99
Tip Tornado Graphex Ultralite ST 13' / 50-125g Smooth	£585.00	£509.99
Eliminator T1200 14' 10" / 125-225g Heavy ground	£815.00	£714.99
Eliminator T1200 Salvador Bustos Edition 14' 4" / 125-225g Heavy ground	£815.00	£714.99
Eliminator T1000 14' 10" / 125-200g Heavy ground	£795.00	£694.99
Eliminator T900-SGT 14' 4" / 125-200g Heavy - Mixed	£715.00	£624.99
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Eliminator T700-SGT 15' / 100-170g Mixed - Smooth	£685.00	£599.99
Excalibur TT 14' 10" / 100-225g Heavy ground	£795.00	£694.99
Excalibur J 13' 6" / 100-200g Mixed ground	£615.00	£539.99
Excalibur C 13' 10" / 100-200g Heavy - Mixed	£615.00	£539.99
Kompressor WR 300 13' 3" / 125-225g Heavy ground	£640.00	£559.99
Kompressor SS 13' 10" / 125-200g Heavy ground	£570.00	£499.99
Kompressor S 13' 10" / 125-200g Heavy - Mixed	£565.00	£494.99
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